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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In the budget tussle between the House and the Senate, which number of work-hour cuts do you support?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ADB Forecast
The Asian Development Bank raises its forecast for the region's economic growth this year
BUSINESS...Page 16

Student Auditions
More than 50 students audition for stage roles in the upcoming Thespian production of Zombie Prom.
CAMPUS LIFE...Page 18

ARC Cookoff
Aqua Resort Club hosts its first ever ARC Cook Culinary Creation 2010.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

FHB ECONOMIC FORECAST FOR THE CNMI

Prospects remain bleak up to 2014

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Economic prospects for the CNMI through 2014 appear to lack promise while anticipation of the military buildup continues to create economic optimism in Guam, states a new First Hawaiian Bank economic analysis released yesterday.

See BLEAK on Page 4

IF DEADLOCK REMAINS

29 lawmakers may vote on work hour cuts today

Fitial to Legislature: Consider $10.5M hike in retirement, insurance payments

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

2 DAYS left before the start of the new fiscal year

If the six-member conference committee remains deadlocked on the work hour cuts by 11:30am today, a Senate resolution calling all the 29 members of the Legislature to vote on the austerity provision of the budget bill will kick in.

Without a balanced budget passed by tomorrow, a government shutdown will start on Oct. 1 that will force over 1,400 employees not to report to work and not receive their wages. *(See story on Page 3)*

Another major blow in the

See 29 LAWMAKERS on Page 4

Government payroll today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hundreds of government employees who were not able to receive their paychecks on time last Friday because of cash shortage will get paid today, press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed yesterday.

Only doctors, nurses, police officers, corrections officers, firefighters and other essential government service employees got their paychecks during the

See GOVERNMENT on Page 4

AGAINST GOVT SHUTDOWN CLARISSA V. DAVID

The man'amko hold up signs and placards they made yesterday at the Aging Center. The islands' elderly population is prepared to stage a rally on Capital Hill should the government consider the Aging Office nonessential in the event of a government shutdown beginning Oct. 1. ***See story on Page 2.***

SPECIAL REPORT

All police vehicles are not insured

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

All vehicles owned by the Department of Public Safety are not covered by insurance, making it difficult for owners of private cars accidentally hit by police vehicles to claim for damages.

Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas confirmed with the *Saipan*

See ALL on Page 4

Shutdown to impact over 1,400 CNMI govt employees. PAGE 3
Medicare team checks out hospital, hemodialysis unit. PAGE 6

Local

Man'amko poised to rally against closure of Aging Center

The *man'amko* is prepared to stage a rally on Capital Hill should the government consider the Aging Office a nonessential agency in the event of a government shutdown beginning Oct. 1.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued Monday a memorandum listing all essential service employee positions that will be exempt from a government shutdown if the Legislature fails to pass a balanced budget by Sept. 30.

The Aging Office was not included in the memorandum.

Some of the island's older population expressed frustration and anger as they made placards and signs yesterday at the Aging Center.

"We plan to see and talk to the governor to look at all possibilities so that we can be exempted from the shutdown," said Teresita Sorroza.

Sorroza, who was recently elected to the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council, said they plan to assemble about 25 congregates at the governor's office.

"They always say that the *man'amko* are important but now they're doing this. We want the *man'amko* to be exempted from the shutdown. We will fight all the way," said Mila Garin.

Garin, who has been an active congregate at the center for four years now, said the Aging Office provides daily services to the *man'amko* such as meal services, bringing them to their hospital appointments, and errands like bank and bill payments.

Jess Pangelinan, former secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, said the government cannot justify closing the center.

"We shouldn't be penalized because the lawmakers can't come up with a budget," said Pangelinan. ***(Clarissa David)***

Preliminary hearing in DPW official's extortion case postponed

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Philip M. Pro postponed yesterday's scheduled preliminary hearing in the extortion case filed against a Department of Public Works building code inspector.

Pro reset the preliminary hearing to Oct. 27, 2010, at 9am after the prosecution and the lawyer of Thomas Sablan Salas agreed to a new date for the hearing.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley and attorney Joseph E. Horey stated in a stipulation that Salas' counsel, David Banes, is off-island the week of Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, 2010.

Horey is serving as temporary counsel for Salas.

Horey and O'Malley said there is currently no visiting federal judge scheduled to sit in the CNMI during the week of Oct. 4 to Oct. 8, 2010.

O'Malley will also be off-island the week of Oct. 12 to 15, 2010.

The parties also noted that the U.S. government intends to seek an indictment against Salas from a grand jury before Oct. 25, 2010. If an indictment is obtained, a preliminary hearing would be moot.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Salas on Sept. 17 after he allegedly extorted $200 cash from a printing press owner. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CPA on target with major projects at airport

Despite minor changes in some contracts, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is still on target with its airport projects, according to executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

In fact, he said, representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration were on island last week for its regular monitoring of the projects.

CPA has two major FAA-funded projects at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport: the alternate runway and the rehabilitation of the main runway.

"We're still on track with all our projects…and we're confident that we can meet our target dates, especially for the major undertakings such as the rehabilitation of our main airport runway," said Deleon Guerrero.

Although the temporary runway project is now finished, the FAA is first required to certify it to make it fully operational. FAA gave $4 million for this project.

The temporary runway was created so that major repair and rehabilitation work can be done on the main runway. Bid for the project cost is over $13 million and the notice to proceed was issued in September 2009.

Until the temporary runway is certified, however, work cannot begin on the main project.

Other ongoing airport projects include the repair of loading bridges, installation of a generator, and replacement of the public address system. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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Shutdown to impact over 1,400 CNMI govt employees

No work, no pay until balanced budget is passed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced yesterday that a CNMI government shutdown will impact over 1,400 employees who will not be able to report to work and earn wages if no balanced budget is enacted before the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1.

Without a balanced budget passed on time, it will be the first government shutdown in CNMI history.

When that happens, only essential service agencies and personnel will operate, including those directly involved in public safety, health and welfare.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said the longer it takes for the Legislature to pass a budget, the longer will it be for government employees to remain without work and pay.

For example, if there is no budget passed by Oct. 15 or Dec. 30, then thousands of government employees will not be able to report for work until that date.

Demapan said this is because there is no deadline set for the Legislature to pass a balanced budget after Oct. 1, although the governor has 20 days to sign a budget measure once it passes the Legislature.

In a separate statement, the Fitial administration said in the event of a shutdown, the list of government employees that will not be reporting to work is expected to be greater than over 1,400 as most of the services rendered by the government will be drastically reduced and the manpower will be significantly limited.

Based on the figures of the most recent delayed payroll, checks were paid out to 710 essential employees and 426 federally-funded employees.

On the other hand, some 1,464 non-essential employees did not receive their paychecks last Friday.

Victor Romolor, who has been a government employee for seven years, said while he is thankful that he and others will finally get paid today, he is concerned that this may be the last paycheck they will receive because of the budget deadlock and a looming government shutdown.

"How can I be happy with my payroll today if I know it may be my last paycheck?" he asked.

181 days since governor's submission

Fitial, in a statement, expressed his disappointment over the lack of legislative action on the budget despite having submitted his proposal on April 1, 2010—181 days ago.

"The Constitution mandates my office to submit a proposed balanced budget to the Legislature. I have fulfilled my obligation to the people. The Constitution further mandates that the Legislature should pass a budget for enactment by Oct. 1. Disappointingly, the Legislature has failed to meet its obligation," he said.

"I am appalled to see that the past 181 days have come and gone but there still remains a deadlock at the Legislature. My administration, through our budget submission in April, clearly spells out the projected government resources of $132 million and a spending plan that will reflect a 64-hour work week and unpaid holidays in order for the government to operate within its means," he said.

The Fitial administration has been preparing for a worst-case scenario since the early part of this month.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham issued a Sept. 7 opinion concerning the requirements necessary to prevent a government shutdown, and if a shutdown occurs, what constitutes essential services.

During Monday's Cabinet meeting, the main topic was the possible shutdown.

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Military training on FDM, W-517

The U.S. military will be conducting training on Farallon de Mendenilla on Sept. 29-30, from 5am to 2am, and on Oct. 1, from 8am to 5pm, and at area W-517 irregular polygon-south of Guam from Sept. 29 to Oct 1, from 8am to 5pm.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is advising the public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, to stay away from these areas during the time and date indicated.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants and W-517 irregular polygon-south of Guam comprising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends southwest into international waters. ***(EMO)***

BLEAK

From Page 1

The report confirms what everyone already knows: That the CNMI economy—which continues to face challenges—"has yet to return to its business peak in 1997 and the economic trends since and over the past five years, in particular, have not been positive."

"Looking ahead, economic prospects through 2014 appear to lack promise as well," said Dr. Maria Claret M. Ruane, resident development economist at the University of Guam-Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives.

Ruane prepared the economic analysis of the CNMI and Guam for First Hawaiian Bank.

The cost and uncertainty of doing business in the CNMI have increased while opportunities, including those associated with the military buildup in Guam and on Tinian, are considered limited, the report said.

Shipping costs, which had always been high, also doubled in the aftermath of the garment industry's demise in March 2009.

In addition to higher shipping costs, labor costs have also increased since 2007 because of the mandated federal minimum wage increases in the CNMI.

Adding to the toxic mix is the uncertainty caused to many businesses operating in the CNMI by the implementation of a U.S. law placing CNMI immigration under federal control.

Ruane's report also noted significant decreases in Gross Island Product and Business Gross Receipts of the Commonwealth, with increases in the cost of living.

The last of the CNMI garment industry closed down in March 2009 after a trade agreement expired, opening up U.S. garment markets to manufacturers in developing countries, most notably China.

"With the end of the garment industry, tourism became the predominant source of economic activity in the CNMI. Unfortunately, prospects for tourism are not encouraging," Ruane said, noting the cancellation of flights by Japan Airlines in 2007 and higher airfares.

More than a half million tourists visited the CNMI in 2005, but visitor arrivals were down by 30 percent to 353,956 by 2009—an 8.58 percent annual decline.

Prospects bright for Guam

The First Hawaiian Bank economic forecast says that anticipation of the military buildup in Guam—a process expected to begin later this year—continues to create economic optimism.

The report also notes encouraging trends in Guam tourism, job growth, inflation and the residential real estate market.

"2010 rolled in with improving consumer and business optimism on the prospects for Guam's economy," Ruane said, citing surveys of business and consumer confidence.

A survey of 43 Guam business owners and/or managers conducted for the PCEI in April 2010 showed 60 percent holding positive expectations for the island's economy in the next 12 months.

More than 52 percent of the 286 local consumers surveyed in May 2010 expressed positive views about income and employment prospects for the Guam economy in the next 12 months.

"As a member of the Guam community for over 40 years, First Hawaiian Bank is delighted to offer to our neighbors and customers this hopeful analysis of Guam's economy. This report confirms our own belief that Guam has a bright future indeed. We are committed to continued support of our island communities in both the CNMI and Guam," said Laura Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and Guam/CNMI region manager.

29 LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

ongoing budget talks is the need to include an additional $10.5 million in required government retirement and health insurance contributions.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the employer contribution rate will be increased from the current 20 percent to 30 percent—an additional over $6.447 million—beginning Oct. 1.

New employer contribution rates for the government health insurance provider Aetna will take effect on Nov. 1, calling for an additional $4.107 million.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and eight other senators adopted a resolution yesterday afternoon that was supposed to call in the 29 lawmakers at 9:30am today to choose between the House's 16-hour work cut per pay period plus 13 unpaid holidays and the Senate's eight-hour cut plus seven unpaid holidays.

But Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), chair of the conference committee, asked the Senate to give the committee until this morning to agree on the work hour reduction.

"I still believe in the committee. We can still come to an understanding," Basa said after the panel went into recess at past 6pm last night.

A conference committee meeting will resume at 10:30am today.

Basa said calling all the 29 lawmakers to resolve the impasse is "the last resort."

The budget panel resumed meeting at 1pm yesterday with Manglona joining the Senate conferees.

He has requested House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) to also join, but the speaker was not at the meeting.

Uniformed police officers also started guarding the House and the Senate premises where the conference committee meeting and Senate session were held yesterday afternoon.

Revenue-generating bill

Manglona pointed out that the Senate passed yesterday a revenue-generating bill that Basa introduced, hoping that the House will pass it during their 5pm session today.

House Bill 17-53, SS1 passed on a 7-1 vote yesterday, with one abstention from Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan). Sen. Luis Crisostimo voted "no," while the seven other senators voted "yes."

Manglona said this bill could generate $16 million to $18 million, hoping that government employees need not get a 16-hour work cut every pay period and would only get eight hours reduction.

HB 17-53, SS1 increases annual business license fees, hikes the so-called sin taxes, and imposes new fees.

"This bill also reduces the 'all other' allocation in the budget," Manglona added.

Senate Resolution 17-26, SD1, introduced by all senators, calls for a joint conference of both chambers to discuss and vote on the differing versions of the House and Senate budget.

"This joint conference will take the decision making power over the lives of our citizens out of the hands of six individually appointed representatives, and places this power in the hands of all elected members of the Legislature, 20 members of the House, and nine members of the Senate," states the resolution, which passed the Senate on a 9-0 vote.

Manglona also wrote the House speaker a letter, telling him of the need to have a joint conference.

"This joint conference will meet to consider and vote on a balanced budget, giving all elected legislators the opportunity to decide before it is too late, whether to accept eight hours austerity and seven unpaid holidays per pay period, or 16 hours of austerity and 13 unpaid holidays," Manglona told Tenorio.

House conferees are standing firm on a 16-hour cut per pay period plus 13 unpaid holidays, while the Senate is recommending only an eight-hour cut plus seven unpaid holidays and passage of revenue-generating bills.

Prior to the Senate session yesterday, Manglona had already informed House conferees—Basa, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan)—about the Senate's proposal.

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said if this voting pushes through, then the Senate proposal could get the most votes.

$10M additional cost

The governor sent a two-page letter to Manglona and Tenorio yesterday, informing them of the additional $10 million that needs to be considered in the ongoing budget talks.

He said the rate increase in the employer share of the retirement contribution for those enrolled in the defined benefit plan and the new rates for those that are with the government health insurance provider Aetna were made known to the Fitial administration in August and September 2010 and were not made part of the 2011 budget submission on April 1.

Fitial said the "August Order" issued by Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo in the matter of *NMI Retirement Fund v. CNMI government* mandates the Finance secretary to remit retirement contributions at an employer contribution rate of 30 percent beginning Oct. 1, up from the current 20 percent.

This order will also apply to Northern Marianas College and the Public School System.

With this court mandate, Fitial said the government must remit the additional requirement of $6,447,515 in fiscal year 2011.

This is on top of the $12,895,030 included in the governor's budget submission for employer contribution in 2011.

Fitial also said that the NMI Retirement Fund informed him that the agreement with government health insurance provider Aetna will expire on Oct. 31, 2010.

New rates will apply beginning Nov. 1, 2010, with an increase of 38.20 percent from the current combined benefits.

Fitial said the increase in employer contribution represents a shortfall of $4,107,231.46 in the 2011 budget plan.

The budget proposal only reflects $1,539,855 for this.

"We realize that without new revenue-generating measures, this additional budgetary need will have a direct impact upon the already reduced Commonwealth resources. We ask the legislators to include this matter in the current 2011 budget deliberation," Fitial told Manglona and Tenorio.

GOVERNMENT

From Page 1

Sept. 24 payday.

This was because the central government collected only some $1 million last week, just enough to cover most employees considered essential.

John Camacho, who has been a government employee for only eight months now, said the delayed salary has been hard on his family.

He said he has two daughters, one of whom is in the U.S. mainland to whom he sends money every payday.

"I also have a daughter here studying and it's hard if you don't get your paycheck on time," he said.

While he is relieved to finally get paid today, Camacho said he will be much happier if he knows the Legislature will be able to pass a balanced budget and prevent a government shutdown.

The father of two said he will be among those deemed non-essential and therefore will have to stop working and not get paid starting Oct. 1 if there's a government shutdown.

This was the third partial payless payday in CNMI history. The first partial payless payday was on June 18, followed by Sept. 10 and Sept. 24.

CNMI government revenue has steadily declined in the past years. From over $200 million just a few years ago, the annual projected revenue has dropped until it reached only $137 million in the current fiscal year. In fiscal year 2011, this figure is projected to go down further to $132 million.

Besides the essential service positions, also exempted from the delay in payroll were the Public School System, Northern Marianas College and federally-funded employees.

ALL

From Page 1

Tribune yesterday that all DPS vehicles are not insured, except for vehicles the department leases for special operations.

The Mandatory Liability Auto Insurance Law for all private motor vehicles took effect in June 1999. Drivers found driving a car without insurance are penalized, including the suspension of license and a fine.

Still waiting for call

A car owner told *Saipan Tribune* that a fire truck slammed into his Nissan Sentra in 2003 or 2004 in Garapan, but until now DPS or the firefighter has yet to pay him any amount for the repair of his vehicle.

The owner said his car was on a stop while waiting for the traffic light to turn green along Middle Road when the fire truck lost its brakes and hit his vehicle from the rear.

He said three other vehicles were damaged as the fire truck also hit a pickup truck, causing a domino effect.

The car owner, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, said his car was totally damaged so he went to DPS to file a claim for repair costs.

Upon instruction from a DPS personnel, he obtained price quotations from car shops for the repair of his car.

"I submitted the quotations. The DPS personnel said I will just wait for their call. Until now, I never received a call from DPS," he said.

The owner said he tried to get help from a lawyer, but he did not pursue the case because the attorney's fee is $1,500 and that he could not afford the amount.

Due to the extensive damage to his vehicle and DPS' inaction, the owner decided to just sell his car for $100.

DPS personnel responsible for repairs

Blas said when a DPS vehicle is involved in a traffic crash, the personnel driving it should immediately make a crash report.

"The report must be reviewed by DPS Traffic Section and a full investigative report [determining the cause of the crash and party or parties at fault] must be submitted to the Office of the Commissioner as soon as possible," Blas said.

DPS employees who operate a DPS vehicle that is covered by insurance and are found to be at fault in the crash are responsible for paying the insurance policy deductible, Blas said.

As for DPS employees who operate a DPS vehicle that is not covered by insurance and is found to be at fault in a crash, Blas said they are responsible for paying for the cost of repair to the DPS vehicle.

"These employees, however, may resolve the matter with the department by agreeing to pay 20 percent of the cost of repair," he said.

Blas said in all cases in which a DPS employee is found to be at fault in causing a crash or damage to another person or property, he or she will be responsible to settle with or defend against claims by the other party.

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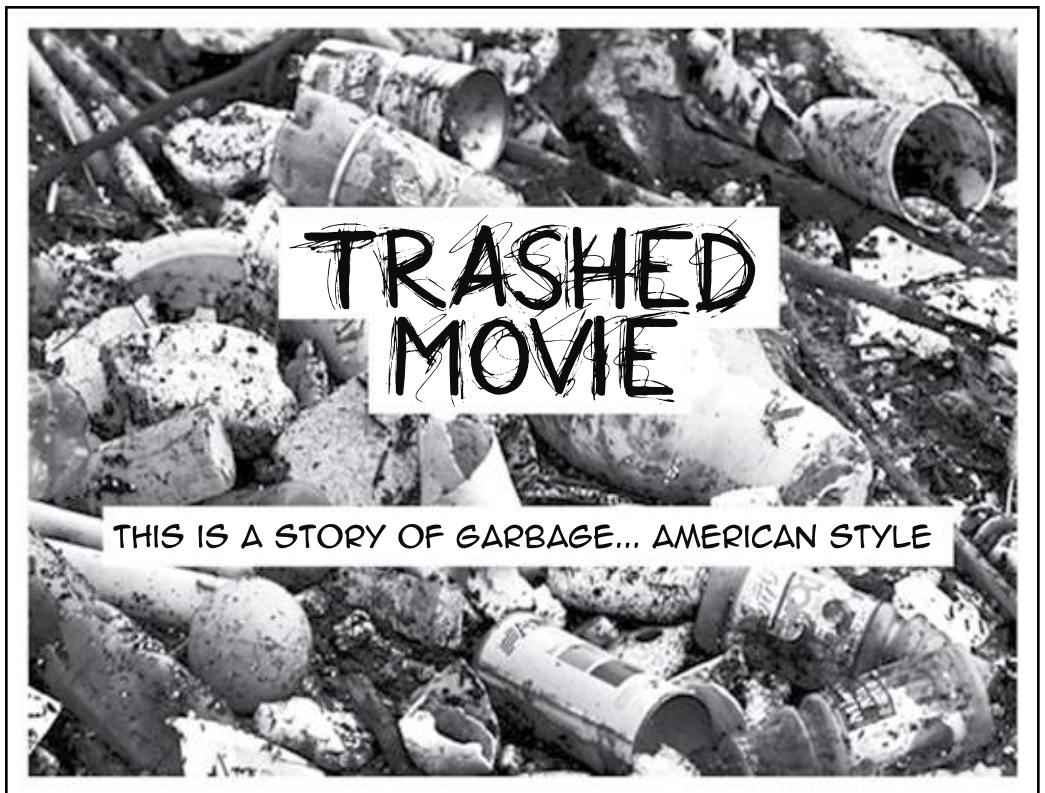

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Medicare team checks out hospital, hemodialysis unit

Nursing jeopardy status lifted

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A four-member team from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services completed its inspection and re-survey of the public hospital on Friday where it conducted an exit conference with health officials.

This week, they are scheduled to inspect the hospital's hemodialysis unit, whose opening has been stalled due to the lack of a Medicare certification that remains pending.

The inspection of the hemodialysis unit is expected to take four to five days this week.

The group is composed of Edgardo Japitano, Renie Soria, Alex Garza, and Leslie Royall. Japitano leads the team in its weeklong surprise visit to the CNMI.

According to Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez, the visitors spent many days going over all the units and sections of the hospital. The team then lifted the jeopardy status of CHC's nursing unit.

"The nursing jeopardy status that was given to us in their last visit some nine months ago was lifted, meaning that all the conditions and issues that they though were jeopardizing healthcare delivery under the nursing care have been met and even exceeded by CHC," said Villagomez.

He lauded the contributions of newly appointed nursing director April Ricotta in this major accomplishment for the department.

Despite this development, the Medicare team still identified some areas of concern at the hospital's dietary department, the credentialing of physician issues, the infectious control department and facilities—all needing to be addressed as soon as possible.

Villagomez admitted that failure to resolve these issues could lead to "jeopardy status" from the Medicare team.

After the weeklong visit capped by an exit conference, the group will submit its recommendations for CHC to respond.

Villagomez designated Esther Muña, the deputy secretary for hospital administration, to lead the CHC response team, which is now starting to address the new citations.

"Within weeks, we will hear back from them and then we will respond. As I said, some of the corrective measures are already being addressed as of today," said Villagomez.

The visiting team did not travel to the Rota and Tinian health centers.

Hiring of risk management consultant for CUC is OK'd

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has directed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to hire a risk management consultant that would help develop a risk management strategy for potential oil spills.

In a decision reached Friday night, the commission also granted CUC's proposal to contract the services of Osroco, the company that will provide CUC with equipment for oil spill response services.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren welcomed the commission's decision.

"I think having a risk management plan is a good idea. Right now, we don't have one and in the event of a major/minor catastrophe, we don't have anything in place," said Warren.

When asked if CUC has enough funds to hire a risk management consultant and a new contract with Osroco, Warren said that they are relying on the projections of commission consultant Georgetown Consulting that this would only involve a minimal cost.

It was learned Friday that CUC sought the commission's approval for the Osroco contract last month. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE:	September 24, 2010	**POSITION:**	Cashier (1)
CLOSE DATE:	October 8, 2010	**SALARY:**	Minimum Wage
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OPEN DATE:	September 24, 2010	**POSITION:**	Lifeguard/Prim (4)
CLOSE DATE:	October 8, 2010	**SALARY:**	Minimum Wage
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For more information you may contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274.

Employment application forms are available at Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applications must include all the necessary requirements and submit employment application to the Security Office for logging.

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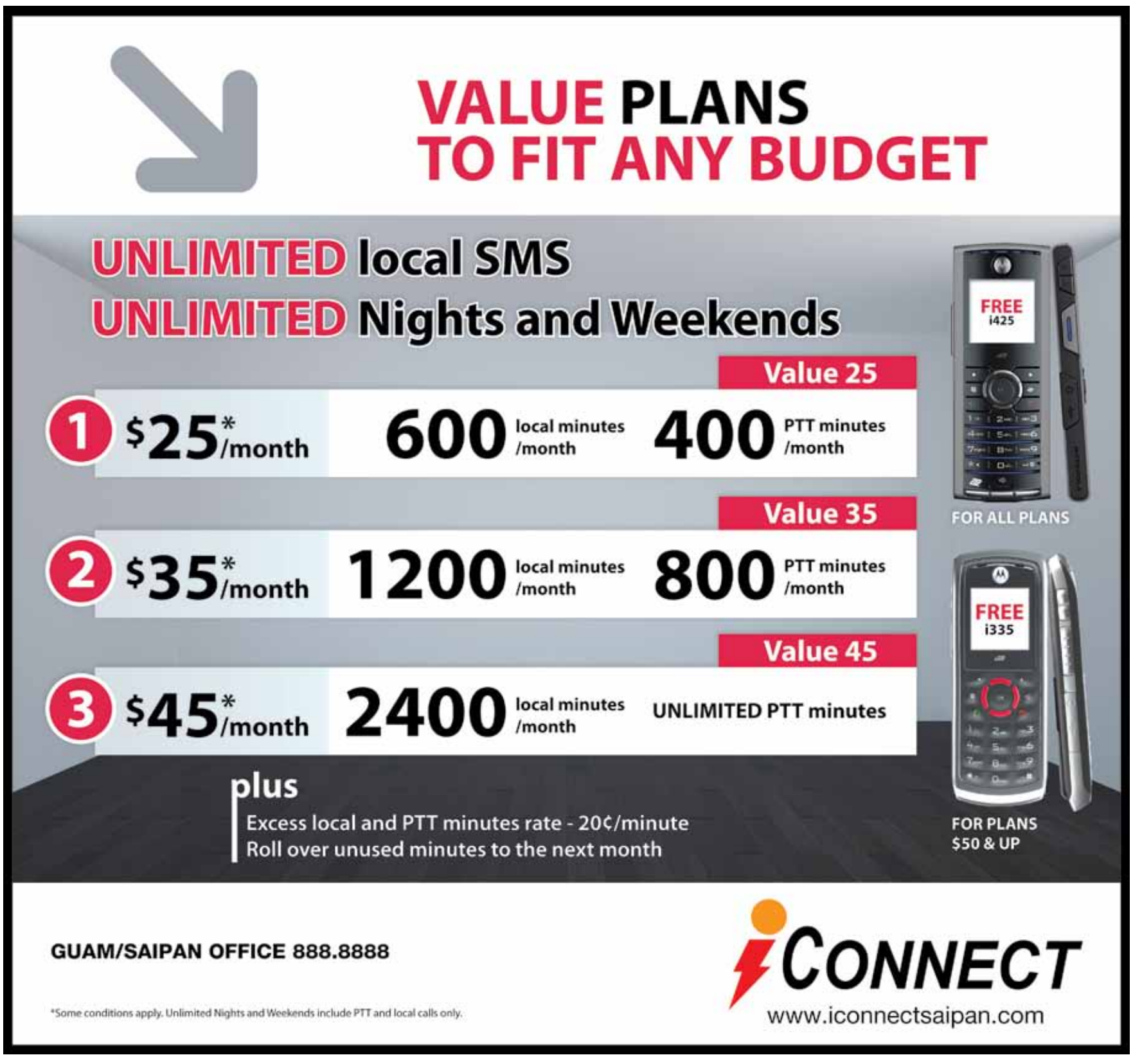

i ♥ my tobacco-free cnmi

On behalf of the Department of Public Health's Community Guidance Center and collaborating partners, we would like to extend our appreciation to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Legislature, and the community in supporting the CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT P.L. 16-46.

Si yu'us ma'ase, olomwaay and thank you.

Interior gives NMI $4.8M for water projects

WASHINGTON D.C.—Interior Department Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta approved yesterday a $4,837,520 Capital Improvement Project grant for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to help expand critical water system improvements.

The grant provides funding for the CNMI Water Task Force to move forward with water infrastructure improvement projects. Financing will support an islandwide initiative to install new underground waterlines, replace old existing ones, connect the TP-1 water well to the Capital Hill Reservoir and increase the overall water supply.

"Twenty-four-hour potable water for the people of Saipan is a top priority for this office," said Babauta.

He recounted that during one of his earlier visits to Saipan, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan encouraged him to meet with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to better understand the challenges it and the Water Task Force face to modernize and fix a decades-old system that is preventing the daily delivery of clean water.

"Since then, Congressman Sablan and I have worked together to identify or redirect resources that would allow the CUC and the Water Task Force to expand existing efforts. This is a vital initiative that will help the CNMI to provide 'round the clock' clean water to its residents," Babauta said.

Babauta

Sablan immediately thanked Babauta yesterday for the new grant.

"Assistant Secretary Babauta has demonstrated with this significant grant of funds for water that he understands the toll the lack of 24-hour water has on Saipan families," said Sablan

"He also demonstrated that the United States maintains its commitment in the Covenant to assist the Northern Marianas reach a U.S. standard of living."

Saipan is the only urban area of the U.S. where households do not have access to drinking water around the clock, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"I look forward to continuing to work co-operatively and collaboratively with Assistant Secretary Babauta, with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, and with other federal officials to improve conditions for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan said.

The funding will also be used to make improvements to address concerns related to safe drinking water availability, water quality, and efforts presently underway to meet current and future water demands. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 29, 1999

Teno gives nod to $60M bond float

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law yesterday a bill which authorizes the Commonwealth Development Authority to float $60 million worth of bonds that would generate the local matching funds for capital improvement projects listed in the 702 CIP Plan. House Bill 11-435, entitled Capital Improvement Project Bond Authorization Act and introduced by Rep. Karl T. Reyes, became Public Law 11-102. The new law allows CDA to issue tax-exempt general obligation bonds "in one or more series." Upon his assumption into office in January 1998, the governor created a multi-agency task force that identified infrastructure projects to be built within the funds from the US-CNMI financial assistance agreement in 1996.

Firefighters appeal for more funds

Fire officials appealed to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday for additional funding to ensure efficient delivery of emergency services to the community. In signing a proclamation declaring first week of October as Fire Prevention Week, the governor pledged to seek solution to the pressing needs of the department. He also stressed the need to step up public information campaign in the business sector as well as in schools regarding fire drills and dangers of fire. Tenorio's proclamation promotes the importance of home escape plan in case of a fire and drills that need to be practiced regularly in effort to safeguard lives and properties.

Sept. 29, 2000

House bill dulls attraction of CNMI to lawyers

The Attorney General's Office has warned against legislation scrapping government housing benefits, saying the move will make it more difficult for the CNMI to hire and retain government lawyers from the U.S. mainland. Noting other jurisdictions offer attractive compensation package, it said even indigenous lawyers would be discouraged to join government service here without such perks. Assistant Attorney General Elliot A. Sattler presented the AGO's position in a testimony presented to the House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee which is reviewing HB 12-34 amending the government housing law.

CJPA awards 34 grants to agencies

A number of CNMI community organizations now have the means to start plans to institute various youth and family-oriented programs with the Criminal Justice Planning Agency Supervisory Council's recent approval of over 31 sub-grant applications to support their respective agenda. According to CJPA Executive Director Harry C. Blanco, the applications for funds available under the Fiscal Year 1999 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program and Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant amounted to some $409,746. He added the council has also awarded $161,220 to three sub-grant applications under the federal Victims of Crime Act Program covering Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000. The grant applications were approved based on several themes in efforts to provide family services, youth development, juvenile rehabilitative services, juvenile justice training, technical assistance, among others.

Sept. 29, 2002

Major naval exercise on drawing board

Lawmakers and leading business sector representatives recently met with a four-man U.S. Navy delegation to discuss plans for future military exercises in the Commonwealth-a move being touted as a booster shot that would pump in much needed economic activity into the Marianas. During a luncheon meeting at the Giovanni's Restaurant of the Hyatt Regency-Saipan last Thursday, Rear Admiral John Costas, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, briefed lawmakers and businessmen led by Senate President Paul A. Manglona and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Richard A. Pierce on some of the military exercises being planned within the Marianas region.

Senate OKs CUC, CDA MOAs

The Senate on Friday adopted two standing committee reports addressing the terms of agreement between the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, following the public agencies' decision to enter into an out-of-court, settlement over a long-standing debt. As recommended by the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, the leadership approved House Bill 13-106, Senate Draft 1, which seeks to require the CDA to waive over $16 million of the principal owed by CUC as well as certain specified interest payments. Eight senators present during Friday's session, led by Acting Senate President Jose M. Dela Cruz, voted for the measure's passage.

DCCA Child Care Program

Caller Box 1007 Saipan, MP 96950
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Announcement

This is to inform all families under the Child Care Program that the renewal month is October, 2010. You may pick up the application form from the Child Care program Office beginning October 1, 2010. All applications along with attachments must be turned in on or before Friday, October 29, 2010 at 12:00p.m. Applications turned in after this date and time will not be accepted.

Child Care Program Office Hours:

Mondays to Thursday s	7:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. (including lunch time)
Fridays,	7:30a.m. to 1:00p.m. Open
	1:00p.m. to 4:30p.m. Closed

Also, the Child Care Program Staff will be conducting renewal outreach for the month of October. Please see below the dates, time, and venue of these outreach activities. During the renewal outreach, you may pick up application forms or submit your completed application forms along with the complete documentations. CCDF Program Staff will be unable to accept applications unless the needed documents are attached. Additionally, there will be no copier available so please ensure you have copies available to provide. Copies must be clear.

Renewal outreach schedule:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010,	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Ada Gymnasium. Oleai
Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	WSR Elem. Cafeteria,CK
Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe
Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe
Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	WSR Elem. Cafeteria, CK
Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe
Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	WSR Elem. Cafeteria, CK
Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe
Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010	5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.	Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe

Form Approved for Distribution: _____ Date: 9/27/2010

This ad has been funded under the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/CCB

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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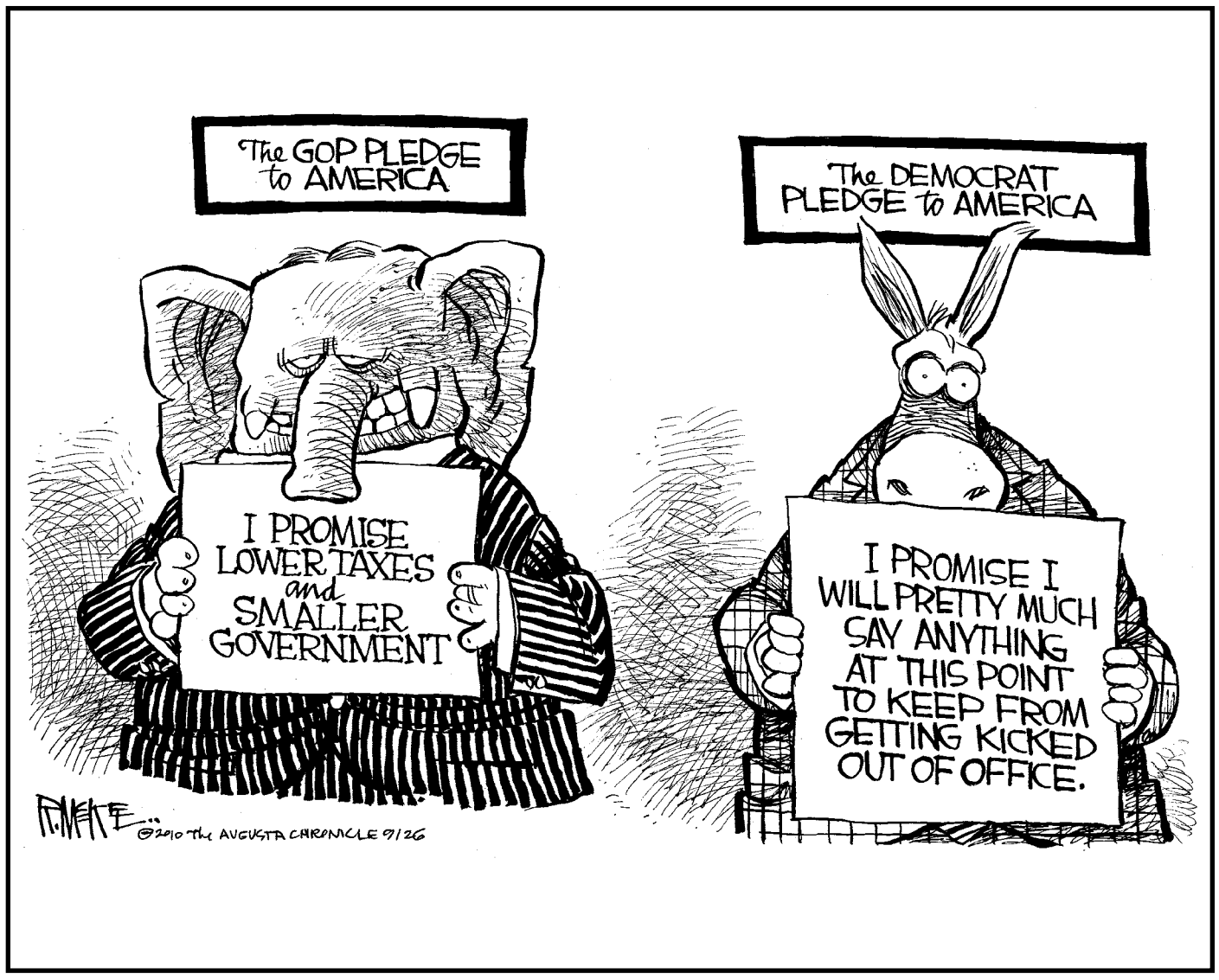

The GOP PLEDGE to AMERICA
I PROMISE LOWER TAXES and SMALLER GOVERNMENT
The DEMOCRAT PLEDGE to AMERICA
I PROMISE I WILL PRETTY MUCH SAY ANYTHING AT THIS POINT TO KEEP FROM GETTING KICKED OUT OF OFFICE.
©2010 THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE 9/26

September morn, September moon

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

We danced until the night became a brand new day is a memorable line in Neil Diamond's sappy and sentimental song, *September Morn.* I know only of Barbara Walters and I who like that song, so that tells one how old the lyrics are, and even Frank the troubadour at the Man'amko Center might not remember when it hit the charts.

We recognize this last week of September as the Banned Books week, if only to remember that in the United States, the relationship between arts and virtue has not always been a steady one. In some jurisdiction, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is still banned from the shelves of the public library. The *Harry Potter* series remains controversial for its alleged celebration of witchcraft!

To those who wallow in trivia, earlier in the 20th century, *Matinee de Septembre* (September Morn), a Chabas painting became famous when it provoked a scandal in the USA. The Mayor of Chicago lost a suit to have the painting removed for indecency from an art gallery display, and later, Comstock of New York, a self-appointed crusader against "vice," threatened an art dealer for public display of the same. It was just a simple French painting of a nude in the beach, neither gaudy nor bawdy (and compared to Internet offerings, would be granny's kitchen decor), which got recognized in the Paris Salon, but later dubbed by art critics as *kitsch* (sentimental art). Defenders of virtue, however, saw "more bare than beach," but to paraphrase the bard of Avon, "virtue is in the eye of the beholder."

More relevant is the continuing ban on gays in the military through its "don't ask, don't tell" policy recently upheld in the U.S. Senate (led by the Republicans who opposed the policy originally, though to their credit, no longer support Sarah Palin for president), the 26-year old woman on Saipan landing in jail for consensual sex with a 15-year-old boy before his 16th birthday (in an age when puberty now occurs as early as age 7), the much publicized travails of soap opera political stars Spitzer and Sanford, Edwards and McGreevey, and now, "health and wealth" Bishop Eddie Long accused of being an Elmer Gantry of the third kind. We do have an inordinate obsession with other peoples' bedroom manners as well as how they want their meat served!

The full moon of September this year is aligned with the autumn equinox and thereby, clear as the light of day being closest to the planet in its cycle, but that is neither here nor there unless you are Chinese. In the tradition of the Hans, Moon cake day is a big family affair that celebrates filial fidelity and wellbeing. Covenants (without using the term, of course) are renewed, and lovers look forward to another year of faithful union. Like Hallmark cards promoting all kinds of celebrative family days, Chinese merchants also delight in converting bean cakes into elaborately packaged gifts where the exchange is favored on the side of "the more expensive, better." "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways," is how we sonnet our sentiment in English;

See SEPTEMBER on next page

Placing prime on education

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Parents would go the distance to assist their children pursue and attain their educational goals. Be it in the form of money from scarce family pocketbooks or loans, mom and dad would put their best foot forward to help their children make it to the bitter end, rain or shine.

Indeed, it is the most precious quiet conveyance children could receive from their parents. Their formal education prepares them to meet the challenges of the future. Yes, I've heard the travails parents of scarce funds for this purpose. My heart bleeds for them in their struggle to find money to ensure the completion of the education of their children.

Beastly Experience with Article XII

Six months ago, I went to the bank to extend my real estate loan. I was hoping to use the equity (value) of my land to secure a loan to assist my son at UTEP. I was denied such loan. In fact, the bank has ended its real estate loan program because of difficulties with Article XII. I probe the issue to try to understand why banking institutions have treated real estate loans with a 10-foot pole, if at all.

The bank isn't interested in owning my land for it isn't in the real estate business. But it wants to hold and dispose of my property when I am in serious default with my loan. It wants its money, thus it wants the freedom to dispose of private properties to any willing buyer, local or otherwise.

The beast (Article XII) has contributed to the termination of real estate loans. Banks that continue extending this form of loan have actually required more collateral from the applicant than the amount of the loan. This isn't fair, is it? And this loan is only given to those with money.

So what's the point?

The land is yours only by permission. Therefore, you can't benefit from the equity of your property in any form or fashion. If this is the case, what's the use of keeping Article XII in perpetuity? And with money being as rare as a good mango, you would need to have full ownership of your land in order to be able to borrow against its value or equity. But you can't do so under current dictates of Article XII.

Let's pull ourselves out of the gibberish swamp of mediocrity and mañana. It's time to decide our future today, realistically.

Art. XII vs. investments

The current provision says that all investments on private or public land revert to the landowner or the local government upon expiration of the lease. Where does this leave the investor? Does this arrangement provide for protection of investments of foreigners? Would you personally sink millions of dollars investing on, i.e., a resort when in the end it becomes the property of the landowner or local government?

It's common sense that Article XII doesn't protect investors. Thus, would this arrangement discourage more investments as to leave most families here land-rich but cash-poor? Indeed, we need to define what it is that we want. Until then, let the bad times roll in perpetuity.

Moreover, a lot of projects have been canceled because of issues pertaining to Article XII. They include the planned expansion of Nikko Hotel for an additional 300 rooms, PIC's expansion for 284 more rooms, Nansay's 800-room Sheraton Hotel; Shimizu's $800 million project; a 400-room San Roque Beach Resort; and, luxury residential development on private land. These projects would have provided the cushion of at least $1.5 billion. It would have filled the void of some $900 million, money that was once recycled here since the mid-nineties.

If it weren't for Article XII and the myriad of legal issues it has stirred in court, these projects and others would have been built and completed since several years ago. It would have meant more revenues for our cash-strapped government and more jobs for the thousands of locals doing search and rescue, since four years ago, for meaningful employment in the tourism industry.

Lest we forget, the NMI isn't the only place where investors could sink their wealth. There are other very beautiful places nearby like Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, the gold coast of Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Indonesia, among other places. These island countries are even giving away free land to lure investors. I'm not saying we should give land freely, but that we must understand that the universe doesn't revolve around the NMI.

Have we worked diligently to prepare jobs for returning NMI scholars? Isn't it time that we engage in preparing a fully rounded educational policy for these scholars? We send them to school abroad. Did we forget that they'd return and would need employment opportunities in either sector? Or is our policy one of "sink or swim"?

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The value of an education

A special message to students from the Jamaican in China

Not many things surprise me.

Having practiced a certain amount of non-attachment to things, outcomes and people throughout my life has given me a unique take on life.

I'm not inflexibly attached to my goals. Yes, I set goals and strive to reach them, but if things don't turn out exactly as I would like, I don't resist. I go with the flow, seek the silver lining, find the lesson to be learned, grow from the experience, and reset my expectations. I believe that there is divine order at work, although it may not always seem to be so from my vantage point. I know that the universe is perfect.

I'm not unduly attached to my expectations of others. Yes, I have my standards, but if people don't behave exactly as I would like, I don't judge. I accept that people are here for different reasons and are not obligated (or sometimes, even able) to act in certain ways simply because I expect them to. I go with the flow, file the observations away for future reference, and reset my expectations. I know that people will do what people will do.

I'm not easily distracted or shaken off course. Yes, I strive to live in the moment and embrace the range of emotions that humans experience, but when catastrophes, disasters and accidents occur, I don't panic. I keep my wits about me and am able to see what actions are necessary, and take them calmly and efficiently. I believe and accept a unique insight into the nature of things. I know that stuff happens.

So, why am sharing all of this? Well, my ultimate point is actually not as profound as the lead-up might imply. First, however, I'll share with you that I'm not on Saipan anymore. In case the news didn't reach you through the usual channels, this Jamaican nomad is now in Beijing, China!

Spanish in China

But, here's the interesting part. If anyone had told me that I would be speaking Spanish in order to communicate with the Chinese people I'm meeting here *("Hey, Walt, I hear you're going to China. Well, make sure you start practicing your Spanish. You're going to need it.")* I would absolutely, positively, (though, perhaps, not out loud) have thought to myself, "*This person has lost her mind*."

You see, there are quite a number of Chinese learning Spanish, and I happened to have connected with one of them through a networking site before escaping to China. Through her, I've been meeting more and more Spanish-speaking Chinese, and since my Mandarin is not as developed as it soon will be, and since their English isn't either, we communicate in Spanish!

Surprise, surprise!

As I said, even though I'm not easily surprised by life's often fascinating turn of events, I will hereby go on record to say the following: Every time I find myself texting or speaking Spanish to my new friends as I walk the streets of Beijing, China, I can't help but pause, smile and think, "Wow, this is pretty cool!" (Yep, that's the extent of my expression of surprise.)

Now, such occurrences are probably normal and par for the course for veteran, multilingual nomads who must often find a common language for communication with those they meet in their journeys, but for me, a Kingston, Jamaican-born, farm boy at heart, yes, it's enough to surprise me.

All because...

And it's all possible because, are you ready for my point now, finally? It's all because: I paid attention in school!

"I'm not going to be a programmer, why do I need to learn Fortran?"

Yes, but because I paid attention in Spanish class in high school, I can put what I learned to practical use and live my dream life communicating with people who speak no English in a country where I wouldn't have expected I would ever need it. *(See "Speaking Spandarish..." on the JamaicaninChina.com blog)*

"I don't know any Spanish people, why do I need to learn Spanish?"

Yes, but because I paid attention in Fortran (a computer programming language) class in high school, and in college, and learned the basic logic of IF statements and DO loops, I can figure out a fix for my own website's "shopping cart" software and continue to make money online while I'm gallivanting on the Great Wall. *(See "Guess What I Did Today" on the JamaicaninChina.com blog)*

"Click here to send us a verification massage, so we can rob you blind!"

Because I paid attention in English class, I can spell correctly, recognize good grammar from bad, and determine the scam emails from the legitimate ones. (I covered this one *in "I enjoyed your recent verification massage!"* SaipanTribune.com July 21, 2010)

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Summary

So, anyway, these are just three recent examples of many that I could use to make a simple point: Everything you will ever be, do or have in life will be the sum total of all that you know and experience. Therefore, the way to be, do or have more is to learn more. Many people shy away from certain types of education believing that it won't ever be relevant to their future. However, everything from your formal education to basic skills like driving a car, cooking, etc., all combine to maximize your future potential. They give you more options, and more points of contact with the wider world.

So, as a student, whether you are in elementary, high school or college, keep an open mind as you plan and execute your education. You never know how the things you're learning now will figure into your future life. Everything builds upon what comes before. Every bit of knowledge and information has the potential to improve your life.

And, who knows? One day, if and when you decide to envision a brand new life for yourself, to break free from the traditions and the shackles of other people's expectations and limitations, to run off to pursue a life that fulfills *your* personal and private desires, you might just surprise yourself with how much you really do know, and how much it can actually help you live the life of your dreams!

Buena suerte, ho yùnqì, and good luck!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep our islands clean

I sincerely appreciate everyone that took part this past weekend in cleaning up various areas on our island as part of the Saipan International Coastal Cleanup program. Thank you also to the organizers. Without this effort, our island sadly would be piled high with trash.

But why is there trash in the first place? Why couldn't we all do our very simple part by not throwing our trash in public places? Would we want people to leave or throw their trash on our property? Isn't that what we are saying when we throw or leave our trash behind in public places?

The Outer Cove Marina is where the majority of our tourists visit. Tourists depart from the Outer Cove Marina to go on diving boats, trip to Managaha Island, on sunset cruise, bottom and trolling fishing. Yet, the place is littered with trash. Why can't each of these operators take care of their trash? I am sure that a clean place would be to everyone's benefit and more so for the operators' benefit.

I am asking all the users of the Outer Cover Marina to please take care of our area. Keep it clean by taking care of your trash. Let's not depend on others to clean after us. How we act reflects on our values.

We all appreciate your kind consideration in keeping our island clean. I am sure our tourists will also appreciate our efforts.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

Pass the budget

I hope and pray that by the time my view is out, our good and hardworking CNMI elected officials have already passed the 2011 budget. We, as voters of the CNMI, we approved via legislative initiative for them to pass a budget before beginning of each fiscal year. It's very funny and rather ridiculous that passing fiscal year 2011 budget is becoming farfetched and entrenched in the same old political gamesmanship. The voters are being dumbfounded once again. Now, they are already planning to circumvent the desire of three-fourth of our voters to have a passed budget on time. To me, it is a shame that they cannot honor our desire and they cannot work harmoniously together in our trying times. Too much time wasted on trying to pass the 2011 budget where they're supposed to be addressing equally important issue, the economy, man!

Please, pass the budget. It is very simple. If you don't have the money, don't spend more than what you have. My advice to our elected officials, consider in your budget deliberation that we are all experiencing hardship, government and private sectors alike. And please, stop these senatorial district arguments amongst yourselves because the victims here are the CNMI people as a whole. You should all agree that there is no money to cover everyone's needs and that government must adjust accordingly, just like our struggling private sector. Cover what are important and cut the rest. Be honest to your constituents when reporting to them, we are experiencing hardship and reduced hours is necessary and that time of abundance is over. And in doing so, please be genuine and that the government as a whole should be in the mode of spending less. The lack of budget and continued decrease in revenue will be extremely detrimental to our CNMI. Good luck to all and God bless our good CNMI.

Benjamin M. Manglona
Rota

Very well said

I will like to applaud Mr. Segundo Castro's piece as it appears on your paper. It was very well written and articulated. The chronology of factual events as it regards to the history of the United States being a wonderful country with humanitarian instincts as chronicled by Mr. Castro is so moving and inspiring that you or one could not be in more awe by what a superpower can also do on a humanitarian level. As Mr. Castro aptly puts it, everything in this world started out as a "dream." Please do not deny your fellow brother his or her dream to better his lot in life because of some misconception based on biases and prejudiced thinking.

The United States is made up of a conglomerate of different races and ideas. That is why it is such a powerful nation. Diversity is the spice of life. Stop this crab mentality.

Ray M. Bermudes
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

SEPTEMBER

From Page 10

the *Zhong Guo Ren* sings *Yue liang dai biao wo de xin,* (the moon represents my heart) as they moan with the moon.

It is perhaps, instructive to notice that in the *yin-yang,* knowledge and relationships are not discarded or replaced when worn out but are added in with the new. In the West, advances in technology and wisdom require the discarding of old things, notions and practices. My sister got herself a new cell phone, and the counter girl exclaimed how much upgrade she was jumping into! We think linearly while Oriental thought moves in cycles. "Then, now, and later" moves in linear progression. "Next!" is the order of the day. On the other hand, Orientals see that what "goes around, comes around."

Orientals are great students of nature. In our lives, we experience that things sprout and grow (spring), get "fired up," ignite or bloom (summer) and reach completeness (late summer), they dry and wither (autumn), and get set to rest (winter). These are the seasons of our lives, in our individual journeys and the external faces and phases of nature. In everything, there is a season.

The September moon marks the season of autumn, with the direction being west, that of visions and dreams. The color is white and the sound is that of weeping from the emotions of courage and sadness. Autumn is the season for dying, graciously and without fanfare. The cold steely eyes of the white tiger lords it over the realm. Once this basic fact of nature, the dry and brittle phase of autumn, when things are dying—or periods of loss in life as a whole—is learned, it becomes just a seasonal thing to live with and to live through.

This mode of operating is quite different from our "how much does it cost now, and can I put it on credit" mentality, and "will my status and standing diminish if I could not afford it" anxiety. Would I be bereft of respect if I lost my job? What a difference it would take to face government "bankruptcy," or our whole collapsed economy, or the planning of our individual journeys, were we to phase the seasons of our lives?

It's the September of our lives—the morn, the mourn and the moon. Like Kazantzaki's Zorba the Greek, let's dance and strum the *balalaika* until the night becomes a brand new day!

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon. Highs around 86.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

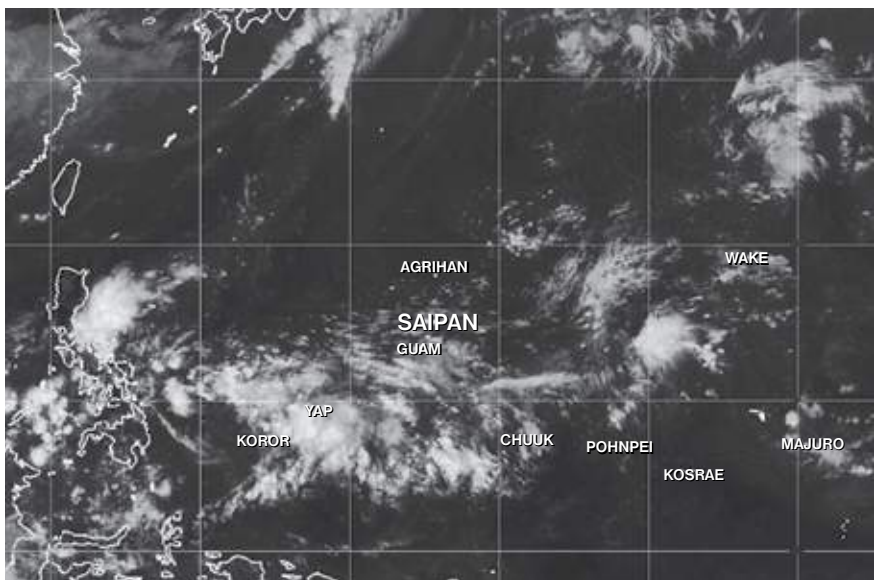
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼73
Kosrae	Sunny	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲62	▼57
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼49
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼70
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼74
London	Rain	▲60	▼47
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼43
Miami	Rain	▲83	▼78
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼64
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲77	▼64
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼51
Pusan	Windy	▲75	▼63
Rome	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Salem	Sunny	▲81	▼57
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼60
Seoul	Sunny	▲71	▼50
Tokyo	Showers	▲71	▼65
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲76	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation is centered west of Yap near 10N136E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found across a broad area within 150 miles of a line from 12N132E to 7N146E including Yap and Koror. Low-level convergence south of the circulation is producing scattered showers south of Koror within 90 miles of a line from 2N130E to 6N136E. thunderstorms from the Marianas to Chuuk within an area bounded by a line from 15N137E to 6N152E to 8N154E to 16N147E back to 15N137E. Upper-level lows centered east of Agrihan at 21N152E and north of Wake Island at 28N166E are triggering a few thunderstorms between 18N and 22N from 149E to 156E and north of a line from 22N163E to 23N170E. A surface trough north of Pohnpei extends northeastward from 9N158E to 19N165E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 130 miles of the trough axis. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 11N168E across the Marshalls to 6N177E then turns eastward to continue beyond 6N180. Scattered showers are present southeast of Kwajalein and over Majuro between 4N and 8N from 169E to the date line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
12:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:15 PM	10:45 AM
Thursday	11:12 PM	11:41 AM
Friday		12:35 PM
Saturday	12:11 AM	1:28 PM
Sunday	1:11 AM	2:18 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

CNMI govt, Fitial appeal ruling in Peter-Palican case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appealed yesterday to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit the federal court's orders that favored Emerenciana Peter-Palican in her lawsuit against the government for terminating her in 2006 as special assistant for Women's Affairs.

The CNMI government and Fitial, through assistant attorney general Gilbert J. Birnbrich, asked the Ninth Circuit to reverse the four decisions issued by the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Among the issues to be raised on appeal is whether the term of the special assistant for Women's Affairs ends with the administration that appointed her.

The other issues are:

•Whether the district court erred in finding an implied constitutional tort under the CNMI Constitution.

• Whether the district court erred in ruling that the CNMI violated Peter-Palican's procedural due process rights.

• Whether the district court erred in denying motion to amend findings of facts and conclusions of law, amend judgment and new trial.

• Whether the district court erred in not awarding front pay to Peter-Palican in lieu of reinstatement.

The last district court decision issued in the case was on Sept. 1 when U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John C. Coughenour denied the CNMI government's motion to hold a new trial.

Coughenour had said the CNMI government and Fitial may clearly be displeased with the outcome of the trial but both failed to provide legal support for their claims of error.

"Without a showing of such support, no new trial is warranted," said Coughenour in his order.

The federal court ordered the CNMI government in March to pay Peter-Palican $216,049.88 in back wages. The court also ordered the Commonwealth and Fitial to reappoint her within 30 days to a government position that has a salary similar to or greater than what she used to have.

Former senator joins original music contest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former senator David Cing submitted two song entries for the recently concluded Pacific Break 2010.

Cing's entries were *Si Mama is Right* and *Puti,* which ranked 17th among the 120 entries for this year's competition, according to wife Daria Cing.

Cing

Contest coordinator Sally McMahon said the judging panel composed of Damian Mobbs of Tuff Tumas Productions, Sarah Howells of Triple J Roots 'n All, and Annette Tripodi of WOMADelaide "had the extremely hard task of selecting just one entry as the winner" for this year's competition.

The III Kings band from Solomon Islands emerged as the winner with their entry *You Alone Me Magnify.*

III Kings will fly to Port Vila in Vanuatu to perform live in front of a huge crowd on Oct. 22 at Fest'napuan, a four-day Pan-Pacific music festival. This year's theme is "Women in Music."

Runners up for Pacific Break 2010 included Fijian solo artist Milkshake with *Channel 1*, Solomon Islands artist Deskem with *Work Done My Fren*, and Papua New Guinea's Samantha Clark with *Here We Go Again.*

Pacific Break is a music competition organized by Radio Australia, the international radio and online service of the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Now on its third year, Pacific Break aims to provide opportunities for Pacific islanders to showcase their musical talents.

McMahon said Cing's entries are still available to download from the Pacific Break website at www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacificbreak and will continue to be played on Radio Australia.

Rotary takes part in int'l coastal cleanup

Members of the Rotary Club of Saipan joined over a thousand volunteers during the annual international coastal cleanup organized by the Coastal Resources Management, the Division of Environmental Quality, and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance last Sept. 24-25.

This year's coastal cleanup marks the 25th anniversary of the world's largest volunteer effort to help protect the ocean.

Rotarian and project coordinator Laurie Peterka said about 20 Rotarians along with their families and friends gathered at their cleanup location at the Garapan Fishing Base on Saturday morning and collected some 500 lbs of trash.

Peterka said most of the trash collected at their location consisted of plastic bottles, cans, food wrappers, and cigarette butts.

She said the most peculiar item they came across was the popcorn machine found by Rotarian Kim Forrester.

According to Peterka, the Rotary considers the coastal cleanup as an opportunity to honor their commitment to the Marine Debris Program with MINA.

"Rotary has been known for participating in various clean ups frequently for many years," she said. ***(Clarissa David)***

Fitial goes on TV today to talk about govt shutdown

Today's edition of John Gonzales LIVE will be a two-hour long special featuring the Fitial administration, led by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who will talk about the proposed fiscal year 2011 budget and the impending shutdown of the CNMI government.

Fitial will be joined by Vicky C. Villagomez, special assistant for management and budget, and Esther S. Fleming, special assistant for administration.

This segment will air today, from 7pm to 8pm, on KSPN Channel 2, right after the 6pm newscast.

This will immediately be followed by members of the NMI Descent for Self-Government and Indigenous Rights, who will talk about the proposed U.S. citizenship for alien workers, the exit poll, and Article 12 issues. This segment will be from 8pm to 9pm.

The show will have replays on Sunday and Monday, all on Ch. 2.

Text 285-META (6382), call 287-4230, or email johngonzales@pticom.com for questions or comments. ***(PR)***

Jesus "Jesse" Camacho Borja
Birthday Dinner Fundraising
Date: October 02, 2010
Place: World Resort
Time: 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Ticket: $50.00 Single
$80.00 Couple
Tickets are also available for purchase at the door.
To purchase tickets in advance, please contact us at siJESSEnai2010@gmail.com, or 256-7767 / 287-7697
Join Us Celebrate Jesse's Birthday
Lots of food, drinks, door and raffle prizes
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jesus C. Borja
Democrat

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SILOSO	010E	9/18 Sat	9/16 Thu	9/16 Thu	9/14 Tue	9/11 Sat	9/24 Fri	9/20 Mon	9/19 Sun	9/12 Sun	9/12 Sun	9/20 Mon	9/24 Fri	9/26 Sun	9/28 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	044E	9/25 Sat	9/23 Thu	9/23 Thu	9/21 Tue	9/18 Sat	10/1 Fri	9/27 Mon	9/26 Sun	9/19 Sun	9/19 Sun	9/27 Mon	10/1 Fri	10/3 Sun	10/5 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	010E	10/2 Sat	9/30 Thu	9/30 Thu	9/28 Tue	9/25 Sat	10/8 Fri	10/4 Mon	10/3 Sun	9/26 Sun	9/26 Sun	10/4 Mon	10/8 Fri	10/10 Sun	10/12 Tue
MELL SILOSO	011E	10/9 Sat	10/7 Thu	10/7 Thu	10/5 Tue	10/2 Sat	10/15 Fri	10/11 Mon	10/10 Sun	10/3 Sun	10/3 Sun	10/11 Mon	10/15 Fri	10/17 Sun	10/19 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	045E	10/16 Sat	10/14 Thu	10/14 Thu	10/12 Tue	10/9 Sat	10/22 Fri	10/18 Mon	10/17 Sun	10/10 Sun	10/10 Sun	10/18 Mon	10/22 Fri	10/24 Sun	10/26 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	011E	10/23 Sat	10/21 Thu	10/21 Thu	10/19 Tue	10/16 Sat	10/29 Fri	10/25 Mon	10/24 Sun	10/17 Sun	10/17 Sun	10/25 Mon	10/29 Fri	10/31 Sun	11/2 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SILOSO	010E	10/2 Sat	10/3 Sun	10/3 Sun	10/5 Tue	10/6 Wed	10/8 Fri	10/10 Sun	SKIP	10/15 Fri	10/16 Sat	10/21 Thu	11/9 Tue	10/24 Sun	10/20 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	044E	10/9 Sat	10/10 Sun	10/10 Sun	SKIP	10/13 Wed	10/15 Fri	10/17 Sun	SKIP	10/22 Fri	10/23 Sat	10/28 Thu	11/16 Tue	10/31 Sun	10/27 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	010E	10/16 Sat	10/17 Sun	10/17 Sun	10/19 Tue	10/20 Wed	10/22 Fri	10/24 Sun	SKIP	10/29 Fri	10/30 Sat	11/4 Thu	11/23 Tue	11/7 Sun	11/3 Wed
MELL SILOSO	011E	10/23 Sat	10/24 Sun	10/24 Sun	SKIP	10/27 Wed	10/29 Fri	10/31 Sun	SKIP	11/5 Fri	11/6 Sat	11/11 Thu	11/30 Tue	11/14 Sun	11/10 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	045E	10/30 Sat	10/31 Sun	10/31 Sun	11/2 Tue	11/3 Wed	11/5 Fri	11/7 Sun	SKIP	11/12 Fri	11/13 Sat	11/18 Thu	12/7 Tue	11/21 Sun	11/17 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	011E	11/6 Sat	11/7 Sun	11/7 Sun	SKIP	11/10 Wed	11/12 Fri	11/14 Sun	SKIP	11/19 Fri	11/20 Sat	11/25 Thu	12/14 Tue	11/28 Sun	11/24 Wed

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cancer survivor support meeting today

All cancer survivors are invited to attend the survivor support meeting scheduled today, Wednesday, Sept. 29, at the Hyatt Chamolinian Room starting at 5:30pm. This month's survivor support meeting will feature a presentation by registered dietician Hee Jae Lee, titled "Nutrition and the Cancer Survivor." Lee will be discussing nutrition guidelines for cancer prevention and survivorship from the American Institute for Cancer Research, and ways to apply those guidelines in the islands using locally available foods. For more information or to RSVP, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org, or contact the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. ***(PR)***

Author of shutdown law on Marianas Agupa on Saturday

This Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010, Marianas Agupa will feature Rep. Diego Benavente, who will discuss the impending government shutdown as provided under the constitutional amendment HLI 16-11, from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report by former mayor Joseph S. Inos followed by special report from former representative Tina Sablan, Saipan correspondent and commentator.

The talk show airs every Saturday from 9am to 11am. Additionally, the show features a special report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator, former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

DEQ brigade sets Jeffery's Beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Monthly cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Jeffrey's Beach in Talafofu on Saturday, Oct.2, 2010, at 8am. Volunteers meet up at the entrance to Jeffery's Beach, split into groups and clean North and South Beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least 3 cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

DPH gets $500K grant to improve critical health services

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has awarded the Commonwealth a $100,000 grant per year for the next five years to improve its critical health services.

The grant approval was announced by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Funding was made possible through the new Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the Affordable Care Act. It will be given through a cooperative agreement with the CNMI.

In a statement, Sebelius said the funding will help health departments around the country improve the quality and effectiveness of critical health services that millions of Americans rely on every day.

"Strengthening our public health system through better coordination and collaboration will help to deliver higher quality health care more efficiently," she said.

According to CNMI Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, the grant will provide much needed help for the DPH to help build its health prevention infrastructure, especially during these times of economic downturn on the islands.

"The funds will allow DPH to make fundamental changes in its organizations and practices, so that we can improve the delivery of public health services in all areas," added Villagomez.

Among the areas to be addressed include building capacity so the department could effectively evaluate the organization, its practices, partnerships, programs; expand and train health staff and community leaders to conduct policy activities in key areas; to improve networking, coordination, and cross-jurisdictional cooperation for the delivery of health services; and disseminating, implementing and evaluating the best and most promising practices.

Man who beat up breastfeeding wife gets 13 days

A man who beat up his wife as she was breastfeeding their baby pleaded guilty to assault and battery Monday and was sentenced to 13 days in prison.

Brigido Itibus Ilo, 28, actually got one year but the sentence was suspended except for 13 days, with credit for the 13 days he had already served in jail. This means Ilo immediately goes free and will be placed on one year of supervised probation.

Superior Court Associate Judge Robert Naraja warned Ilo, however, that if he commits another act of domestic violence, his probation will be revoked and he will be sentenced to at least three months in prison, without the possibility of parole.

Ilo was required to pay $25 in court assessment fee, $100 in probation fee, and $100 in fine. He was also directed to perform 100 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to his wife and two children.

He is also barred from possessing or consuming any alcohol or drugs for a year.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Ilo with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and assault.

He pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea bargain. The remaining charges were dismissed.

He was represented by assistant public defender Richard Miller.

According to the police's report, Ilo assaulted his wife on Nov. 7, 2009 on Saipan. The victim sustained a swollen forehead, bruises on the elbow and knee, scratches on the neck and arm, and a cut on the left ear.

Police said Ilo threw a can of beer at the victim, hitting her on the forehead. Ilo also punched her several times, pushed her to the wall, pulled her hair, and threatened to kill her with a machete. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

7 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Grotto Cave, Bird Island Beach, Jeffries Beach, Marine Beach, Hidden Beach, Ladder Beach, and Tank Beach on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

Water samples were taken from 12 Saipan east and south recreational beaches this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 6th birthday to Daphne Rylee Cruzana, who is celebrating her special day today, Sept. 29, 2010! May you have many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greetings coming from Queen Anne & Louis Benedict.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-11-001

Supply and Delivery of Facility Spill Response and Support Equipment: Power Plant No.1, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Facility Spill Response and Support Equipment for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The procurement of equipment is part of the US EPA Stipulated order No. 2 response action and is subject to their approval.

The Bid Package & Specification will be emailed to interested parties, upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan Village, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, until **October 7, 2010.**

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-11-001, Supply and Delivery of Facility Spill Response and Support Equipment: Power Plant No.1, Saipan"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 12, 2010 at 10:00 A.M., (CST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the complete Bid shall also be sent by email or through compact disks (CD/DVD), to reach the office of procurement at the same time of the bid closing. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Offers should be submitted on forms provided and with the relevant details required, and must clearly identify the party submitting them, and be signed by such party or on his behalf. The price or prices should be firm. Any conditions, or exceptions to the terms of this Request for Bids, may be cause to reject the bid.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Bid award will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to specifications and all requirements concerning delivery time, payment terms, warranty and duration of warranty.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **Friday, October 8, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B Sablan, Jr., Procurement and Supply Manager, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. William Sword, Technical Manager for Oil, Power Generation - **sword.william@gmail.com**; Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power Generation **venu@cucgov.net**; and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - **mika_muna@cucgov.net.**

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

CHARLES WARREN
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building • P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC-RFP-11-002
DESIGN BUILD FOR SECONDARY CONTAINMENT AT LOWER BASE POWER PLANT 1 AND 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced design construction firms for the design and build of secondary containment at Lower Base Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The work includes some design of contract drawings and contruction of concrete containment. Deliverables also include submission of preliminary drawings, specifications, preparation of workplans for construction, then construction. The work must be completed by February, 15, 2011. All the work will be done as a part of the US EPA Stipulated order No. 2 response action and is subject to their approval. This project will be funded through the grant awarded by the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until October 1, 2010.**

One (1) original and Six (7) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-002 Design/Build of Secondary Containment at CUC Power Plant Nos. 1 & 2"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **October 8, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CST) local time.** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager at email msablan@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions will not be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **October 1, 2010 at 9:30 AM (CST) local time** at the Saipan Lower Base CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Bldg.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **October 3, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Manager, Procurement and Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net; Technical Manager for Oil, Mr. Will Sword via email sword.william@gmail.com and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract/s will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ CHARLES WARREN
Acting Executive Director

Senate lauds teen cancer survivor for inspiring the community

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate adopted yesterday afternoon a resolution honoring Angel Ray Tudela Guerrero for his inspirational courage and resilience in fighting cancer since he was 12 years old, and for his generous contributions to the community.

Despite his condition, Guerrero has donated nine wheelchairs, four truckloads of stuffed toys and books, containers of clothing and stuffed toys, and pallets of hard covered journals, among other things.

He also teamed up with Hawaii Rep. Glen Wakai's Reach Out Pacific Non-Profit Organization at least twice to donate television sets, electronic and stuffed toys and ventilators, books and bookshelves.

Guerrero also obtained books and toys from the U.S. Library of Congress through the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and donated them to youths in the CNMI.

Senators, before adopting Senate Resolution 17-24, took turns lauding Guerrero's deeds.

"One of the amazing things about him is that he never stops to share a positive outlook in life," Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), original author of the resolution, said during the session.

All the eight other senators co-sponsored the resolution.

Guerrero, 16, was diagnosed with brain cancer in July 2007 when he was only 12. He spent 15 months in Hawaii for treatment, including multiple surgeries, extended chemotherapy and radiation, and grueling physical, occupational, and speech therapy to combat his cancer.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said Guerrero was one of her patients when she was still working at the Medical Referral Office in Guam.

"He seemed jolly despite his condition. He does not put himself down," she said.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said Guerrero shows that one need not be an elected official to be recognized for helping the community.

"I hope we will see more like Angel Ray in the future. Even when he was in hospital, he was still serving the community," he told his fellow senators.

Guerrero is the son of Joseph T. Guerrero and Vicky T. Guerrero, the governor's special assistant for programs and legislative review.

"Angel Ray is a remarkable person and his generosity and contributions to the community are examples all citizens should all aspire to accomplish," the resolution reads.

The Senate also adopted Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes's (R-Saipan) S.R. 17-25, which conveys condolences and sympathy to the family of the late Francisco Deleon Guerrero Camacho, a former lawmaker and educator.

The resolution also pays tribute to Camacho, who was a former teacher at Hopwood Junior High School, a member of the Saipan Municipal Council, a Department of Commerce official, and a member of the 5th and 8th Legislature.

Pinktober Concert at Hard Rock to benefit cancer support group

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hard Rock Saipan and the Commonwealth Cancer Association are gearing up for a fundraising concert in Otober to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The 2010 Pinktober Concert at Hard Rock is scheduled on Oct. 10. Entrance fee is $10 per person.

Operations manager Rey Perez said the concert is part of Hard Rock's monthlong Pinktober campaign, an initiative created to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research. It features a series of live music as well as limited-edition products.

Perez told *Saipan Tribune* that this year's Pinktober campaign marks the 11th anniversary of Hard Rock International's support of the search for a cure to breast cancer.

Perez said the concert will showcase the talents of artists such as Larra Ramos, Pats & Dhen, Jerry Alcantara, Afetnas Regime, The Sai, MC Riyoko, Black Sands, and Burning Bush.

CCA program manager Tina Sablan said the concert will also feature performances by breast cancer survivors like Leila Staffler.

"The concert aims to reach out to breast cancer survivors and raise public's awareness on breast cancer," said Sablan.

She said there will be a video presentation of different cancer survivors during the concert.

According to Perez, proceeds from the concert will benefit CCA while the sales of limited edition Hard Rock Pinktober merchandise will go directly to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Dress in the hottest color this October and help support the campaign for breast cancer awareness. For information, visit Hard Rock Saipan on Facebook or call Perez at 233-ROCK (7625).

Ada, insurance commissioners meet with Obama

On a recent trip to Seattle and Washington, D.C., Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, who is also the CNMI's Insurance Commissioner, met with President Barack Obama, U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, and U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis during an hour-long meeting regarding the Health Care Reform Act.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners arranged for 32 of the nation's 56 commissioners to meet with the Obama administration to discuss issues between the traditional state-run regulatory framework and the new provisions under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

In the closed-door session, the President noted many of the state's intentions to implement the provisions under the Affordable Care Act, inclusive of efforts in some states to mandate public hearings for rate increases prior to approval, as well as other state's efforts to introduce legislation that require consumer advocates to serve in the rate review process.

Sept. 23, 2010, marks the beginning of many key provisions under the Affordable Care Act, inclusive of dependent coverage up to the age of 26, restrictions on denials for pre-existing conditions, and prohibitions on recessions of policies.

"The dialogue centered on the challenges of implementation of the ACA. Many of the Insurance Commissioners throughout the 50 states and DC have been able to work closely with DHHS. However, the territories are having a far different conversation as there is a tremendous amount of vagueness that applies to us. The NAIC has voiced this concern with the Obama administration and we have seen a strong response from the federal government," said Ada.

Ada, along with Guam Insurance Commissioner John Camacho, was asked by the NAIC to attend the meeting with Obama. During previous meetings, Ada expressed concern to the NAIC that the territories were being asked to implement the mandates of the ACA without any of the resources available to the 50 states and DC. DHHS subsequently opened up a grant opportunity specifically for the insular areas and 10 states that opted not to apply for the initial grant opportunity. The grant allows for $1 million for the Insurance Commissioner to develop or enhance an office to conduct rate reviews.

"We are applying for the full $1 million as there is no requirement to match the funds. With this money, we intend to hire four employees and contract out professional services for Information Technology requirements for rate review," said Deputy Secretary of Commerce Sixto Igisomar.

In previous statements, Ada expressed concern over the provisions as they apply to the CNMI. Ada cited the small marketplace as a source of concern as Medicaid eligibility will be significantly expanded, thus shrinking the non-Medicaid base that private health insurers could draw premiums from. This concern is compounded by the mandated use of a Medical Loss Ratio, which limits margins of private health insurance companies. With a shrinking market base and restrictions on margins, Ada is concerned that private insurance firms may opt to stop serving the CNMI.

"How do you provide affordable health care as the ACA mandates when the health insurance firms leave because the market conditions are not feasible to operate in? If we do not approach this correctly with our health insurance companies, they may opt to not do business here," said Ada.

The health insurance firms have began approaching Ada to request an exemption from the MLR provision. While Ada understands the concern of the MLR, preliminary talks with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have indicated that there is no flexibility in this provision. This was further emphasized in the NAIC's meeting with the Obama Administration.

"While DHHS has granted one waiver to the state of Maryland, they only did so because Maryland already had a more restrictive MLR in place prior to the ACA. My position will be to request an extension of time to implement the MLR for purposes of conducting a study on what ratio the insurance firms here can tolerate," added Ada.

Missing the point

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had raised concern surrounding the increase in Medicaid funding given to the CNMI. While some people praise this as a significant win for the CNMI, the Fitial administration doesn't view it in the same manner.

The ACA provides more funding for Medicaid for the CNMI, but it does nothing to significantly reduce the local match for the Medicaid program. Currently the CNMI must match 50 percent of every dollar up to an annual limit and the ACA reduces the local match to 45 percent, which helps, but doesn't address the current fiscal situation. Some states have been able to realize a reduction in match requirements, which provides them with upwards of an 83 percent federal share.

"While I believe that there are some good provisions in the ACA, the increase in Medicaid is not one that I particularly see as a benefit. We have to assess the long-term impacts and be cognizant that the increase in Medicaid also increases the amount of money that the CNMI has to bring to the table. This is money that we don't have. The fact of the matter is that the delegate failed to look at the statute that establishes our local matching rate and further failed to make efforts to address this issue. My administration has done everything to try and negotiate with DHHS on a reduction in match; however it requires a legislative fix," said Fitial. ***(Commerce)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-163
SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 19, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF DESIGN WORK FOR THE LAOLAO BAY DRIVE STREAM CROSSINGS AND BOLLARDS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER SEPTMBER 15, 2010 AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 5, 2010 AT 9:00A.M. IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 205).

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT'S USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!
SATURDAY morning, OCTOBER 2, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
Join us this
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

Business

ADB raises Asia growth forecast to 8.2 percent

HONG KONG (AP)—The Asian Development Bank raised its forecast for the region's economic growth this year, crediting a rapid recovery in exports even as it warned the risk of another recession in advanced countries has not completely receded.

The Manila-based development bank said Tuesday it now expects developing Asia to grow 8.2 percent this year compared with a projection of 7.5 percent growth issued in April. The forecast, which doesn't include Japan, covers 44 developing and newly industrialized nations in Asia.

"Overall, developing Asia's recovery seems to have taken firm hold," the ADB said. Increased consumer and business spending as a result of government stimulus also played its part in the recovery from the financial crisis, it said.

In predictions for individual economies, the bank maintained its forecast of 9.6 percent growth for China, the world's second-biggest economy. The southern Chinese financial and legal services hub Hong Kong was revised upward to 5.8 percent. South Korea and Taiwan were raised to 6 percent and 7.7 percent respectively.

India's anticipated growth was edged up from 8.2 percent to 8.5 percent, although the bank warned about high inflation in the south Asian nation due to scant monsoon rains in 2009 that suppressed harvests.

The Philippine economy was expected to jump 6.2 percent—up from an earlier prediction of 3.8 percent. Singapore is forecast to surge 14 percent—more than double the previous figure of 6.3 percent. Thailand's outlook improved from 4 percent growth to 7 percent. The bank projected a 4.1 percent expansion for Pakistan in 2010, slowing to 2.5 percent in 2011 because of the country's recent flooding.

IPAD RIVAL AP

The company that gave us the BlackBerry thinks its business customers will have room in their briefcases for at least one more device: the PlayBook. Research in Motion Ltd. showed off the tablet for the first time Monday and is set to launch it early 2011, with an international rollout later in the year. Mike Lazaridis, president and co-CEO of Research in Motion Ltd., holds the new PlayBook during the annual BlackBerry developers conference, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010, in San Francisco.

Obama urged to use spill fines to restore Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's point person on the Gulf coast's restoration will recommend paying for it with some of the billions of dollars in civil penalties that could be collected from companies responsible for the oil spill.

That recommendation by Navy Secretary Ray Mabus will be in a report released Tuesday in New Orleans, a portion of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

"In order to help address the damage inflicted upon the region, dedicated recovery funds are absolutely essential," the report reads.

A senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the announcement was not yet made, said the White House has already endorsed the proposal and President Barack Obama will ask Congress to dedicate "a significant amount" to the region's recovery.

"This is the dedicated money that kickstarts this thing," the official said.

Dedicating fines levied against BP PLC and other companies involved in the April 20 accident to restoration and directly to Gulf states, which the report also calls for, will require a change in law. Currently, Clean Water Act fines go into a trust fund to pay for oil spill cleanups.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart offers to buy Massmart for $4.25B

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is offering to buy South African retailer Massmart Holdings Ltd. for about $4.25 billion in a bid to jump-start growth beyond its sluggish U.S. business. A deal would give the world's largest retailer an opening to expand in South Africa, a fast-growing economy but one that's also troubled by high crime and a 24 percent unemployment rate. It also has a heavily unionized work force. Wal-Mart has focused on expanding overseas, particularly in emerging markets, but South Africa had not been an area that officials had discussed as a potential opportunity. "South Africa possesses attractive market dynamics, favorable demographic trends and a growing economy," Executive Vice President Andy Bond said in a statement. Wal-Mart has sourced products there but doesn't have a retail presence, company officials confirmed.

Southwest-AirTran deal means more options for some

NEW YORK (AP)—Southwest's decision to buy AirTran will mean more routes and fewer delays and cancellations in small cities but higher fares in the Northeast and perhaps the end of the super-low sale fare. Southwest Airlines, which has built a loyal following with its tongue-in-cheek ads and refusal to charge for checked bags, said Monday it planned to buy AirTran for $1.4 billion. The deal will move Southwest into 37 new cities, expand its presence in cities like New York and Boston and move it into Atlanta, the busiest airport in the nation. Combining the AirTran and Southwest routes means more connecting options for people flying through places like Moline, Ill., and Wichita, Kan., which should result in fewer delays and cancellations because there will be more options for rerouting passengers.

Nation

Obama presses for longer school years

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barely into the new school year, President Barack Obama issued a tough-love message to students and teachers on Monday: Their year in the classroom should be longer, and poorly performing teachers should get out.

American students are falling behind some of their foreign counterparts, especially in math and science, and that's got to change, Obama said. Seeking to revive a sense of urgency that education reform may have lost amid the recession's focus on the economy, Obama declared that the future of the country is at stake.

"Whether jobs are created here, high-end jobs that support families and support the future of the American people, is going to depend on whether or not we can do something about these schools," the president said in an interview on NBC's "Today" show.

U.S. schools through high school offer an average of 180 instruction days per year, according to the Education Commission of the States, compared to an average of 197 days for lower grades and 196 days for upper grades in countries with the best student achievement levels, including Japan, South Korea, Germany and New Zealand.

"That month makes a difference," the president said. "It means that kids are losing a lot of what they learn during the school year during the summer. It's especially severe for poorer kids who may not see as many books in the house during the summers, aren't getting as many educational opportunities."

Obama said teachers and their profession should be more highly honored—as in China and some other countries, he said—and he said he wanted to work with the teachers' unions. But he also said that unions should not defend a status quo in which one-third of children are dropping out. He challenged them not to be resistant to change.

Spill panel: Federal confusion lost public trust

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's repeated low estimates of the huge BP oil spill undermined public confidence in the government's entire cleanup effort, leaders of a White House-appointed commission declared at an investigatory hearing Monday. One likened the mistakes to Custer's disastrous decisions at Little Big Horn.

Federal officials botched the government's response, a local official and government and university scientists contended as the commission focused on the questions of who was in charge and how much oil spewed out of the well into the Gulf of Mexico.

Eventually, U.S. officials said the spill was about 60 times bigger than originally estimated. Instead of 42,000 gallons a day, the volume of leaking oil was closer to 2.4 million gallons a day.

"It's a lot like Custer," said panel co-chairman Bob Graham, a former Florida senator and governor, referring to the battle that killed George Armstrong Custer and wiped out most of the Army's 7th Calvary in 1876. "He underestimated the number of Indians on the other side of the hill and paid the ultimate price."

And who was in charge? Billy Nungesser, president of Plaquemines Parish, one of the coastal areas most affected by the spill, referred to another famous leader, this one fictional.

Downtown Los Angeles bakes at record 113 degrees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California's blistering fall heat wave sent temperatures to an all-time record high of 113 degrees in downtown Los Angeles on Monday, and many sought refuge at the beach.

Downtown hit 113 degrees for a few minutes at about 12:15 p.m., breaking the old all-time record of 112 degrees set on June 26, 1990, said Stuart Seto, a weather specialist at the National Weather Service office in Oxnard. Temperature records for downtown date to 1877.

Electrical demand was much higher than normal for this time of year but no problems or shortages were expected on the state grid, said Gregg Fishman, spokesman for the California Independent System Operator, which controls about 80 percent of the grid.

"It's manageable. We've got the resources available," he said.

Demand was expected to reach 46,000 megawatts, compared to 38,300 megawatts a year earlier, he said.

As Mother Nature served up California in a roasting pan, some people were able to seek relief at the beaches—though not in the hundreds of thousands who turned out over the weekend as the heat wave built.

"Because it's Monday and it's a school day, the crowd is a lot smaller, (but) it appears a lot of people aren't going to work or school," said Los Angeles County lifeguard Capt. Angus Alexander.

ACROSS THE NATION

Georgia executes inmate who had attempted suicide

JACKSON, Ga. (AP)—A Georgia prisoner who tried to kill himself last week by slashing his arms and throat with a razor blade was executed Monday night amid heightened security for the 1998 murders of a trucking company owner and his two children. Brandon Joseph Rhode, 31, was put to death by injection at the state prison in Jackson. He was pronounced dead at 10:16 p.m. Rhode declined to speak any last words or have a final prayer. He was convicted in 2000 of killing Steven Moss, 37, his 11-year-old son Bryan and 15-year-old daughter Kristin during a burglary of their Jones County home in central Georgia. His coconspirator, Daniel Lucas, was also sentenced to death in a separate trial and remains on death row.

Praise for airline crew following NY hard landing

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP)—The pilot and his crew who brought 60 passengers to safety in a weekend emergency landing at John F. Kennedy Airport, while sparks flew and one plane wing dragged along the tarmac, were praised Monday for their professionalism. Pilot Jack Conroyd is a "class act," passenger Jamie Pfeiffer, 68, said in a telephone interview from her home in Bridgewater, Conn. He and his crew "really helped to lower the panic level. They were all doing their jobs so well." Passenger John Predham said Conroyd was their "Capt. Sully," referring to Chesley (Sully) Sullenberger, the celebrated US Airways pilot who landed on the Hudson River in January 2009. "If we couldn't have Capt. Sully, thank God we had Capt. Jack," Predham told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from his home in Sherman, Conn.

Texan imprisoned for child sex assault exonerated

DALLAS (AP)—A judge on Monday overturned the 1993 conviction of a deaf man who was sent to prison for raping a 5-year-old girl despite an absence of physical evidence linking him to the attack. Stephen Brodie, 39, dropped his head in relief after an interpreter signed to him that Judge Lena Levario had set aside his conviction on the grounds of actual innocence. He then turned to face the courtroom audience, some of whom waved both hands in the air—sign language for applause. "I feel like a burden has been lifted," Brodie told reporters through a translator. "I feel light. I feel extremely happy."

Asia

Historic political meeting under way in NKorea

AP

In this image made from 1980 file television footage, Kim Jong Il applauds while attending the Workers' Party of Korea convention, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's biggest political gathering in 30 years began Tuesday hours after leader Kim Jong Il appointed his youngest son as a military general in what was seen as part of a succession plan.

North Korean state TV said that the elder Kim was reappointed as general secretary of the Workers' Party at the delayed political gathering to elect the party's top leadership.

Hours before, state media announced that Kim Jong Un was promoted to army general, and observers were expecting the 20-something to be appointed to more key positions to groom him to succeed his father.

It was state media's first official mention of the young man.

Kim was reappointed as the party's general secretary, proof of the people's "expression of absolute support and trust" in him, a state TV announcer said in a broadcast monitored in Seoul.

The announcer added that a "crucial" development was under way but gave no further details.

Kim Jong Il himself took over leadership in 1994 when his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, died of heart failure in what was communism's first hereditary succession.

The question of who will take over from the authoritarian leader is important to regional security because of North Korea's active nuclear and missile programs and concerns of chaos in the case of upheaval in the impoverished country.

Very little is known about Kim Jong Un, believed to be 28 and schooled for several years under a pseudonym in Switzerland.

Petraeus: Talibans have reached out to reconcile

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP)—The top commander in Afghanistan says Taliban leaders have reached out to the Afghan government seeking reconciliation.

Gen. David Petraeus told reporters Monday that very high-level Taliban leaders have reached out to the highest levels of the government.

President Hamid Karzai has long said that he will talk to insurgents if they renounce violence, sever ties to terrorists and embrace the constitution.

The Taliban have publicly said they won't negotiate until foreign troops leave Afghanistan.

Petraeus said prospects for reconciling with Taliban leaders are being "pursued by the Afghan leadership at the very highest levels."

Presidential spokesman Waheed Omar says Karzai is waiting for a planned peace council to start any formal talks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

No Japan-China meeting planned at Europe summit

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister has no plans to meet with his Chinese counterpart at an Asian-European summit next week, Tokyo said Tuesday as it reasserted its sovereignty over disputed islands at the center of territorial row that have frayed ties between the two Asian trading partners. Conditions had not been met for a meeting between Prime Minister Naoto Kan and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku told reporters Tuesday, repeating that it was up to China to repair relations. If conditions for such a meeting are met, the Foreign Ministry will "explore" the possibility of having bilateral talks on the sidelines of the ASEM summit, or Asia-Europe Meeting, to be held in Brussels on Oct. 4-5.

Eastern Afghan official killed in bombing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The deputy governor of a volatile eastern Afghan province was killed by a suicide car bomber Tuesday, along with five others, police said. The explosion occurred when the official was driving in Ghazni city toward his office, said Ghazni province Police Chief Zarawar Zahid. The bomber rammed into one of the vehicles in the two-car convoy, sparking a large blast. All of those in the convoy were killed, including Deputy Gov. Khazim Allayar, his adult son, his driver, and three bodyguards, Zahid said. Twelve people nearby were wounded, he added.

China sentences 2 to death for child trafficking

BEIJING (AP)—Two men have been sentenced to death in eastern China for abducting and trafficking 40 infants. The official Xinhua News Agency says a court sentenced the men on Monday for their involvement in a ring that abducted dozens of baby boys from Sichuan and Yunnan provinces and sold them to villagers in neighboring Fujian for up to $6,000 each. Calls to the Quanzhou Intermediate People's Court rang unanswered Tuesday.

Suspected US missile strike kills 4 in NW Pakistan

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. drone fired missiles at a house in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing four people in the 20th such attack this month - nearly double the previous monthly record, intelligence officials said. Almost all of the attacks this month have occurred in North Waziristan, part of Pakistan's semiautonomous tribal region that is largely out of the state's control and is dominated by militants who regularly stage attacks against U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The house targeted Monday was located in Khushali, a village near Mir Ali, one of the major towns in North Waziristan, said the intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

World

Palestinians wait on decision to quit peace talks

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Palestinian president said Monday he would wait at least a week before deciding whether to quit Mideast peace talks, giving U.S. mediators precious time to broker a compromise after Israel refused to extend its 10-month moratorium on new West Bank settlement construction.

President Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly threatened to withdraw from the newly launched negotiations if Israel resumes building in the settlements. But with the stakes so high, Abbas said during a visit to Paris that he would not make any hasty decisions. He said he would consult with the Palestinian leadership before discussing the matter with representatives of the 22-member Arab League next Monday.

"We will not have any quick reactions," he said at a news conference standing beside French President Nicolas Sarkozy. "After this chain of meetings, we will be able to put out a position that clarifies the Palestinian and Arab opinion on this issue now that Israel has refused to freeze settlements."

A senior Palestinian official said the Palestine Liberation Organization's 18-member decision making body would meet Wednesday or Thursday to determine how to proceed. He was speaking on condition of anonymity because he was discussing internal Palestinian deliberations.

The construction restrictions that the Israeli government ordered expired at midnight Sunday with no sign Israel was heeding U.S. and Palestinian pressure to keep the curbs in place.

Chavez: Venezuela studying nuclear energy program

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Monday that his government is carrying out initial studies into starting a nuclear energy program.

Chavez brought up the issue during a news conference, saying the South American country needs an atomic energy program.

"We're taking on the project of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and they aren't going to stop us," Chavez said. "We need it and we're carrying out the first studies."

Chavez is a close ally of Iran and has defended the Iranian nuclear program, saying he is sure Iran is not making atomic weapons in spite of U.S. and European suspicions.

He has mentioned plans for an atomic energy program previously. It remains unclear how quickly he intends to pursue the program.

Chavez brought up the issue while referring to the case of a physicist and his wife in New Mexico who are accused by U.S. authorities of offering to help develop a nuclear weapon in contacts with an undercover U.S. agent posing as a representative of the Venezuelan government.

"They detained some scientist professors, I think Argentines, and then I was ready to respond when I saw that a government spokesman came out there saying that no, no, there is no evidence," Chavez said.

The U.S. government is not alleging Venezuela or anyone working for it sought U.S. secrets in the case.

Small-town mayor stoned to death in western Mexico

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—A small-town mayor and an aide were found stoned to death Monday in a drug-plagued western state, the fifth city leader to be slain in Mexico since mid-August.

Michoacan state Attorney General Jesus Montejano said the bodies of Tancitaro Mayor Gustavo Sanchez and city adviser Rafael Equihua were discovered in a pickup truck abandoned on a dirt road near the city of Uruapan.

Montejano's spokesman, Jonathan Arredondo, said initially that the victims were hacked to death with a machete, but the attorney general said they were killed with stones.

Arredondo said police were trying to determine a possible motive.

Tancitaro, a town of 26,000 people, is in a region where soldiers have destroyed more than 20 meth labs in the last year and several police officers have been killed by suspected drug gang members.

Last year the city council chief, Gonzalo Paz, was kidnapped, tortured and killed. Then in December, the mayor and seven other town officials resigned saying they had been threatened by drug traffickers and local police were not showing up to work.

Soon after, the department's entire 60-officer force was fired for failing to stop a series of killings and other crimes, and Michoacan state police and soldiers took over security in the town. Sanchez was named mayor in January.

WORLD BRIEFS

US envoy to try to salvage Mideast peace talks

JERUSALEM (AP)—Washington's special Mideast envoy is to pressure Israeli and Palestinian leaders to keep peace talks from collapsing just weeks after they began. George Mitchell's mission follows Israel's decision to resume settlement construction in the West Bank after a 10-month freeze. The move has thrown the talks into disarray. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has threatened to walk out of the negotiations if Israel doesn't renew the moratorium. The U.S. is disappointed over Israel's refusal to relent and has dispatched Mitchell to try to bridge the gaps. Mitchell is expected to arrive on Tuesday. Abbas has said he will decide whether to quit the talks after consulting senior Arab officials next week. That gives U.S. mediators time to try to broker a compromise.

Kremlin fires iconic Moscow mayor after 18 years

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Tuesday fired Yury Luzhkov, ending the 18-year rule of the Moscow mayor who gave the crumbling metropolis a glamorous facelift but was maligned for outdated values and bellicose posturing. Medvedev signed a decree relieving the 74-year-old mayor of his duties due to the president's "loss of confidence" in him, according to the Kremlin website. After a series of minor scandals, speculation over the future of the flat-cap-wearing mayor swirled, forcing him to declare on Monday that he wouldn't quit. The next day he was removed by the president. Russian news agencies cited Medvedev's spokeswoman Natalya Timakova as saying the Kremlin gave Luzhkov the chance to step down voluntarily.

Colombian Sen. Cordoba kicked out of Congress

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia's inspector general ousted an outspoken opposition senator Monday, barring her from public service for 18 years for allegedly "promoting and collaborating" with Latin America's last remaining rebel army. Sen. Piedad Cordoba gained international notice by brokering the release of more than a dozen hostages held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. A flamboyant Afro-Colombian known for her trademark turban, Cordoba has been a polarizing force in domestic politics and is a close ally of Venezuela's leftist president, Hugo Chavez. Cordoba, 55, has not been charged with any crime.

Campus Life

Zombies are hot!

More than 50 students auditioned two weeks ago for stage roles in the upcoming Thespian production of Zombie Prom, a musical comedy by Dempsey and Rowe. The students came from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, Saipan International School, and Hopwood Junior High School.

On Sept. 14, room D 101 at MHS was packed with enthusiastic students awaiting their turns to sing and read for student directors Dowen Jocson, Chiantee Rosete, and Craig Hart, all from MHS.

"We were surprised by the turnout for the auditions," Hart said.

The auditioning students returned on Sept. 16 for dance auditions.

"What makes this play different from the others TWPI has done," said Rosete, a veteran Thespian, "is the requirement of dance auditions. The students had to learn swing on the spot!"

The dance audition included a 30-minute lesson and practice session on the lindy-swing given by Harold Easton, MHS teacher and Thespian chapter director. He had no difficulties executing the moves! The students worked up a sweat and had fun, too.

While the students from Tuesday's auditions were learning the rehearsal dance steps on Thursday, more students came to D 101 for initial audition tryouts—taking turns singing and reading. After the Thursday audition group cleared the room from their hard work, the dancers took turns in groups of three pairs showing off their new dance moves.

The Thursday auditioners returned on Saturday for dance tryouts. And then there were band and musician auditions on Saturday, also.

Jocson, Rosete, and Hart have been busy watching every single student audition and tryout, taking notes, giving audition grades, and writing comments. They held some call backs on Sunday and Monday and then processed all the information they accumulated to come up with a casting list.

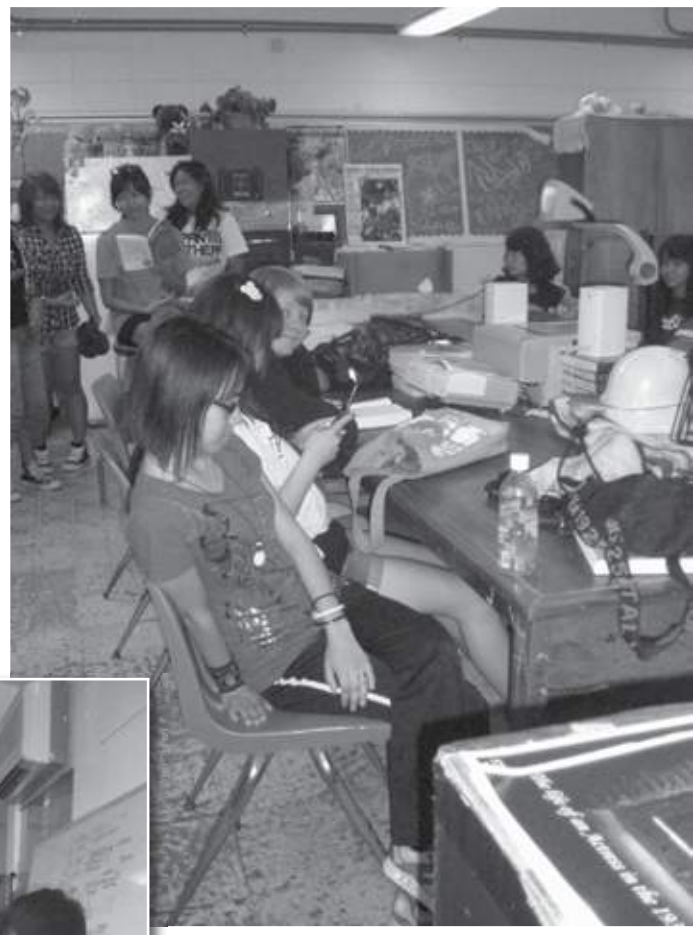
And here it is!

CHARACTER	PERFORMER	UNDERSTUDY
Toffee	Doyi Lee (SSHS)	Mariel Ferrer (MHS)
Jonny Warner	Matthew Lopez (MHS)	John Darag (MHS)
Delilah Strict	Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero (SSHS)	Keneisha Park (MHS)/ Mereylen Denora (SSHS)
Eddie Flagrante	John Darag (MHS)	Darren Cajipo (MHS)
Candy	Kimberly Park (MHS)	Roseanna Sablan (SSHS)
Coco	Rochelle Dimapilis (MHS)	Anne Mariel Flores (SSHS)
Ginger	Anne Madrid (MHS)	Liezel Tiples (MHS)
Josh	Mikey Johnson (MHS)	(not assigned)
Joey	Abel Pellegrino (SIS)	(not assigned)
Jake	Joel Chan (MHS)	(not assigned)

Student #1 Kelly	Kelly Demapan (MHS)	Chorus	Wincel Mae Bubos (MHS)
Student #2 Janice	Keneisha Park (MHS)	Chorus	Rizza Joy Butalon (MHS)
Student #3 Brian	Bal Eum Hong (MBA)	Chorus	Charlene Castro (MHS)
Student #4 Michael	Michael Sheu (MBA)	Chorus	Jimin Cheon (MHS)
Student #5 Lance	Vinnie Orsini (MHS)	Chorus	Nikko Deleon Guerrero (MHS)
Student #6 Sheila	Mariel Ferrer (MHS)	Chorus	Dayanara Flores (SSHS)
Toffee's Mom	Ann Mariel Flores (SSHS)	Chorus	Se Young Hwang (MBA)
Toffee's Dad	Wilden Mangahis (MHS)	Chorus	Julius Inucencio (SSHS)
Secretary #1	Roseanna Sablan (SSHS)	Chorus	Nagisa Kishimoto (MBA)
Secretary #2	Liezel Tiples (MHS)	Chorus	Kaiza Lucido (MHS)
Secretary #3	Abigail Hudkins (SIS)	Chorus	Clariza Magat (MHS)
Secretary #4	Angela Cruz (GCA)	Chorus	Ajette Manabat (MHS)
Copy Boy #1	Ray Denora (SSHS)	Chorus	Jenella Nelmida (HJHS)
Copy Boy #2	Jessie Boyer (MHS)	Chorus	Ageline Sahagon (MHS)
Ramona Merengue	Merey Len Denora (SSHS)	Chorus	Bing Jane Serrano (MHS)
Motorwise Guy #1	Darren Cajipo (MHS)	Chorus	Kassie Takai (MHS)
Motowise Guy #2	Ardel Tumbaga (MHS)	Chorus	Kristine Valencia (MHS)
Motorwise Guy #3	Linson Manahan (MHS)	Chorus	Vivien Viernes (MHS)
Motowise Guy #4	Mikhael Masongsong (MHS)		
Announcer	Cody Race (MHS)		
Stage Manager	Vira Starr Cucal (MHS)		
Boom Mic Holder	Riya Nathrani (MHS)		
Cameraman #1	Kevin De Torres (MHS)		
Cameraman #2	Leo Duenas (MHS)		

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Marianas High School student band auditions for the TWPI production of Zombie Prom.



▶ More students wait for their turn.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

▼ Students wait their turn to audition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

▶ Wilden Mangahis and Jenella Nelmida read as part of their audition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

There were also students, from MHS, SSHS and SIS who signed up for the tech crew to help backstage. The Thespian production is entirely student-staged, with adults on hand as advisers only.

The Thespians student organization, also known as TWPI for Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands, plans to stage the show the weekend of Nov. 12-14, 2010 at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club.

"This play will be amazing if we can keep the cast motivated," said Jocson, an experienced student director who was part of the directing team for the 2008 Thespian production of The Secret Garden. "I hope we can all have fun and enjoy the play."

The show promises to be fun! Zombie Prom takes place in the nuclear '50s, showcases an original score of '50s-style rock and roll tunes, and brings to life that '50s craze for zombies!

The energy is atomic! ***(TWPI)***

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of

Dr. Jose Lujan Chong

Would like to extend our sincere thank you and appreciation to all relatives and friends for your presence and prayers during the 1st year anniversary Daily Masses.

We also wish to thank you for your time, gift, support and prayers. Your generosity and thoughtfulness will always be remembered in our hearts and prayers.

†Dr. Jose Lujan Chong
July 25, 1924 – September 24, 2009

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow, and Thank you

Ginen i Familia

Life & Style

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Aqua Resort's managers serve as judges for the ARC Cook Culinary Creation which aims to enhance the skills and develop the culinary competence of the kitchen staff and personnel.

Some of the participants for the ARC Cook Culinary Creation 2010.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Food and Beverage Operation Manager Rom Manzon tries one of the entries for the ARC Cook Culinary Creation 2010.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Two Japanese managers of Aqua Resort sample the dishes prepared by the kitchen staff and personnel.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Aqua Resort hosts Cook Culinary Creation 2010

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time, Aqua Resort Club held the ARC Cook Culinary Creation 2010 yesterday for the men and women behind the premier resort hotel's delectable, gastronomic delights.

Twenty-three scrumptious and artfully presented creations consisting of appetizers and main dishes prepared by supervisory and rank-and-file kitchen staff were entered for the competition.

"The purpose of this event is to enhance their skills and develop their culinary competence," chef Arnel Marquez told *Saipan Tribune*.

Marquez said they took advantage of the hotel industry's low season to ensure that the culinary team of Aqua Resort continues providing exceptional cuisines as well as creating new dishes for its guests.

Food and Beverage operation manager Rom Manzon said the culinary competition also aims to motivate their kitchen staff and make them feel that they are fundamental to the company's success.

"It also brought out their talents and maintained their enthusiasm and interest in their work," added Manzon.

Marquez said the staff came in as early as 8am to prepare their gastronomic creations from 10am to 2pm for the culinary competition that was sponsored by the management.

"They were really excited about the event," said Marquez, adding that the kitchen staff at Aqua Resort get to be trained in preparing all kinds of fares, including the cold and hot dishes as well as pastries.

The nine judges, composed of Aqua Resort's pool of managers and Micronesian Broker Inc. manager Kits Barja, sampled all entries and evaluated them based on taste, appearance, originality, use of local ingredients, and degree of difficulty in preparing the dish.

"It was a good event as it brought out lots of new ideas and creative menus from our staff," said restaurant manager Ramon Awit.

Jamerito Casama received the judges' nods with his intensely flavored and impeccably constructed Fish En Papillote. For his prize, Casama has the choice between Sunday Brunch or Friday Night Seafood Buffet for two.

Marquez said they will choose which among the entries, aside from Casama's dish, will be included in their buffet and ala carte menu.

In Loving Memory of our beloved Husband and Father

FRANCISCO DELEON GUERRERO CAMACHO

ALSO KNOWN AS BOY

Born on September 25, 1941 and called to eternal rest on September 22, 2010

Predeceased by:
Parents: *Juan Campus Camacho and Soledad Deleon Guerrero Camacho*
Mother in Law: *Carmen Nekai Babauta*
Brothers and Sisters & In Laws: *Jose Deleon Guerrero Camacho, Rosalia Camacho Flores and Lorenzo T. Flores, Leonardo Deleon Guerrero Camacho and Rita T. Camacho, and Magdalena Camacho Benavente*

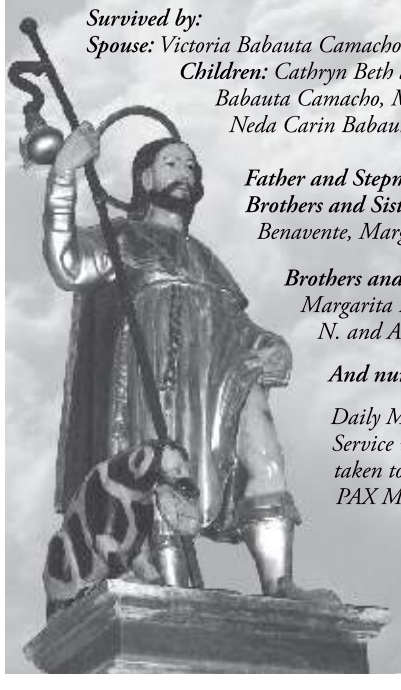
Survived by:
Spouse: *Victoria Babauta Camacho*
Children: *Cathryn Beth and Bernard P. Villagomez (Camille Victoria, Chloe Elizabeth, and Bernard Jr.), Claudine Babauta Camacho, Michelle Clarice and Walter I. Macaranas (Francisco Andres, Devin Jared, and Tyler Joshua), Neda Carin Babauta Camacho*

Father and Stepmother In-Law: *Santiago Miyasaki Babauta and Nobuko T. Babauta*
Brothers and Sisters & In Laws: *Shirley Camacho, Marcelino Deleon Guerrero and Cecilia T. Camacho, Luis C. Benavente, Margarita Deleon Guerrero Camacho.*

Brothers and Sisters in Law:
Margarita B. Camacho, Ana and Tito Bansil, Juan N. and Charlene T. Babauta, Felipe N. and Aurelia Q. Babauta, Janet B. and Ben Pereda, Luis N. and Alice Babauta, Cecilia B. and William Benavente, and James N. Babauta and Laura Buckneil

And numerous nieces and nephews.

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm at San Roque Church followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2010. His remains will be at Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00am and will be taken to San Roque Church at 7:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Interment Service will take place at Santuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman.



Please join us in prayers

Dangkulo na si yu'us maase. Thank You
Victoria Babauta Camacho, Children and Family

MacArthur Foundation reveals 2010 'genius grants'

CHICAGO (AP)—David Simon, creator of the HBO television series "The Wire," is among 23 recipients of this year's MacArthur Foundation "genius grants"—news that left him with what he described as "a vague sense of guilt."

The $500,000 grants were announced Tuesday by the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The money, paid quarterly over five years, comes with no strings, allowing winners unfettered freedom to pursue their creativity.

Simon's guilt stemmed from already being amply funded in an industry that's "a little bit recession-proof," he said. Still, the award's prestige will go far with network executives. While critically acclaimed, Simon's dissection of urban problems in "The Wire" and more recently "Treme" hasn't yet scored Emmys or high Nielsen ratings.

"It makes it easier to go into the room with the network and argue against doing the usual thing in television," Simon said. His next pitch? The history of the CIA since World War II and a housing desegregation fight in Yonkers are two subjects inspiring him now. "Not all these things have the best possible commercial outlook," he said.

MacArthur winners don't need to tell anyone how they'll spend the grant money. There are no reporting requirements.

"We could spend it all on cake," joked theater director David Cromer, one of this year's recipients. Cromer, known for staging American classics like "Our Town," said he wasn't ready to discuss what he may attempt with the grant's support. But he has some non-cake ideas.

"It purchases you freedom," Cromer said. "I can do things now that aren't necessarily going to generate an income."

That's exactly what the foundation has in mind. Bob Gallucci, the foundation's president, called the grants "an investment in people who have already done extraordinary things." There have been 828 MacArthur Fellows, including this year's winners.

"We're hoping not only that they'll do extraordinary things in the future, but that this fellowship will make that somewhat more likely," Gallucci said.

Jason Moran, a jazz pianist and composer, said he was elated and that the grant would fuel many of the projects that have lain dormant in his mind.

"I have already begun making minor plans on band expeditions to Senegal to study Senegalese drumming, or bringing our music down to perform in rural parts of America, or to simply create new collaborations with artists in other fields, or begin a series of recordings made on the old format of Edison wax cylinders," he said. "It's all in play now."

None of the winners is from New Orleans, but the Big Easy exerts a strong pull on the 2010 grantees. Simon's newest HBO series "Treme" is about residents of post-Katrina New Orleans. Cromer recently revived Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," set in New Orleans, to great praise.

And Shannon Lee Dawdy, an anthropologist and archaeologist from the University of Chicago, has studied New Orleans since 1994. After Hurricane Katrina, she worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state of Louisiana to make sure recovery efforts respected the city's archaeological heritage.

She regrets she hasn't been able to save Holt Cemetery, a potter's field where homemade plot markers were washed away by the post-Katrina flooding.

"I would like to work with the local community to preserve living traditions and the site itself," Dawdy said, and the MacArthur grant may help. "It might mean that I'm able take things I've long wished to do, things in the 'wouldn't it be nice?' category, and make that actually happen magically."

Receiving word of the MacArthur was "like receiving a phone call from the Greek gods," Dawdy said, because "someone you can't see is pulling the strings of your fate."

Winners have no idea they've been nominated. Nominators are pledged to secrecy.

There's "nothing more fun" than informing the winners, Gallucci said. He broke the news to four grantees this year, he said, first making sure they weren't driving or holding a baby.

Subterfuge can be involved in the notification.

MacArthur winner Amir Abo-Shaeer, a public high school physics teacher in California, said he was expecting a call from a college student named Liz Brooks who was interested in his work when the foundation called to tell him about the grant.

There was no Liz Brooks. She was a creation of the foundation to get the busy teacher on the phone. "I am prepared to lie like a rug," admitted Gallucci, who notified Abo-Shaeer of the grant.

Abo-Shaeer, who left a job in industry to become a teacher, wants to train other educators about his innovative curriculum and the importance of recruiting and inspiring female students.

"Right now I teach full time. I can relieve my schedule to be a teacher trainer. If I have an idea that's exciting or interesting, I can try it," he said.

The MacArthurs have been nicknamed "genius grants," which can be problematic for winners.

Simon, the HBO producer, said his wife would like to thank the foundation for "five years of fresh material." The morning after she heard the news, Simon's wife, best-selling novelist Laura Lippman, told him, "Hey Genius, you forgot to take the trash out last night."

In this photo taken Sept. 21, 2010 and provided the MacArthur Foundation, public school teachers Amir Abo-Shaeer is seen at Dos Pueblos High School in Goleta, Calif.

AP

GENIUS LIST

The following 23 fellows each will receive $500,000 over the next five years from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation:

- **Amir Abo-Shaeer**, 38, public school teacher, Goleta, Calif. Inspiring and preparing public high school students for careers in science and mathematics through an innovative curriculum that integrates applied physics, engineering and robotics.
- **Jessie Little Doe Baird**, 46, language preservationist, Mashpee, Mass. Reviving a long-silent language and restoring to her Native American community a vital sense of its cultural heritage and to the nation a link to its complex past.
- **Kelly Benoit-Bird**, 34, marine biologist, Corvallis, Ore. Using sophisticated acoustic engineering technology to explore the previously invisible behavior of ocean creatures and address long-unanswered questions about the structure and behavior of food chains.
- **Nicholas Benson**, 46, stone carver, Newport, R.I. Preserving the legacy of a centuries-old artistic tradition and expanding the art of hand letter carving with the beauty and craftsmanship of his own designs.
- **Drew Berry**, 40, biomedical animator, Melbourne, Australia. Enhancing understanding biological processes and systems by synthesizing data from a variety of fields into scientifically accurate, aesthetically rich visualizations.
- **Carlos D. Bustamante**, 35, population geneticist, Stanford, Calif. Mining DNA sequence data to address fundamental questions about the mechanisms of evolution, the complex origins of human genetic diversity and patterns of population migration.
- **Matthew Carter**, 72, type designer, Cambridge, Mass. Crafting letterforms of unequaled elegance and precision for a range of applications and media that span the migration of text from the printed page to computer screens.
- **David Cromer**, 45, theater director, New York. Reinvigorating classic American plays with a spirit and urgency that eschews nostalgia and provides audiences with unexpectedly fresh and compelling theatrical experiences.
- **John Dabiri**, 30, biophysicist, Pasadena, Calif. Investigating the hydrodynamics of jellyfish propulsion, which has profound implications for understanding evolutionary adaptation and such related issues in fluid dynamics as blood flow in the human heart.
- **Shannon Lee Dawdy**, 43, anthropologist, Chicago. Combining archaeological scholarship with historical preservation to reveal the dynamics of intellectual and social life in New Orleans from its establishment as a French colony to the present day.
- **Annette Gordon-Reed**, 51, historian, Cambridge, Mass. Enriching understanding of colonial and early American interracial relations by disentangling the complicated history of two distinct founding families.
- **Yiyun Li**, 37, fiction writer, Davis, Calif. Dramatizing the myriad effects of late-20th-century China's sweeping social changes in a moving, yet understated, style of storytelling.
- **Michal Lipson**, 40, optical physicist, Ithaca, N.Y. Working at the intersection of fundamental photonics and nanofabrication engineering to design silicon-based photonics circuits that are paving the way for practical optical computing devices.
- **Nergis Mavalvala**, 42, quantum astrophysicist, Cambridge, Mass. Linking optics, condensed matter and quantum mechanics in research that enhances the ability to detect and quantify gravitational radiation.
- **Jason Moran**, 35, jazz pianist and composer, New York. Blending musical styles in genre-crossing performances that expand the boundaries of jazz expression.
- **Carol Padden**, 55, sign language linguist, La Jolla, Calif. Illuminating the unique structure and evolution of sign languages and the specific social implications of signed communication.
- **Jorge Pardo**, 47, installation artist, Los Angeles. Challenging the distinction between fine art and design, as well as the constraints of museum and gallery spaces, with visually seductive works at the intersection of painting, sculpture and architecture.
- **Sebastian Ruth**, 35, violist, violinist and music educator, Providence, R.I. Providing richly rewarding musical experiences and education for urban youth and their families while forging new roles beyond the concert hall for the 21st-century musician.
- **Emmanuel Saez**, 37, economist, Berkeley, Calif. Drawing on quantitative analyses, behavioral experiments and theoretical insights to enhance understanding of the relationship between income and tax policy.
- **David Simon**, 50, author, screenwriter and producer, Baltimore, Md. Crafting richly textured narratives that engage wide-ranging audiences and confront daunting challenges facing America's urban centers.
- **Dawn Song**, 35, computer security specialist, Berkeley, Calif. Exploring the deep interactions among software, hardware and networks to increase the stability of computer systems vulnerable to remote attack or interference.
- **Marla Spivak**, 55, entomologist, St. Paul, Minn. Protecting one of the world's most important pollinators—the honey bee—from decimation by disease while making important contributions to the understanding of bee biology.
- **Elizabeth Turk**, 48, sculptor, Atlanta. Transforming her signature medium of marble, a traditionally monumental and prone-to-fracture material, into intricate, seemingly weightless works of art.

'Titanic' co-star Gloria Stuart dies at 100

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gloria Stuart, the 1930s Hollywood beauty who gave up acting for 30 years and later became the oldest Academy Award acting nominee as the spunky survivor in "Titanic," has died. She was 100.

Stuart died of respiratory failure Sunday night at her Los Angeles home, her daughter, Sylvia Thompson, said Monday. The actress had been diagnosed with lung cancer five years ago and had beaten breast cancer about 20 years ago, Thompson said.

"She did not believe in illness. She paid no attention to it, and it served her well," Thompson said. "She had a great life. I'm not sad. I'm happy for her."

In her youth, Stuart was a blond beauty who starred in B pictures as well as some higher-profile ones such as "The Invisible Man," Busby Berkeley's "Gold Diggers of 1935" and two Shirley Temple movies, "Poor Little Rich Girl" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." But by the mid-1940s she had retired.

Stuart

She resumed acting in the 1970s, doing occasional television and film work, including Peter O'Toole's 1982 comedy "My Favorite Year." But Stuart's later career would have remained largely a footnote if James Cameron had not chosen her for his 1997 epic about the doomed luxury liner that struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage in 1912.

Stuart co-starred as Rose Calvert, the 101-year-old survivor played by Kate Winslet as a young woman. Both earned Oscar nominations, Winslet as best actress and Stuart as supporting actress.

"I am so saddened to hear of the loss of this remarkable woman," Winslet said. "I feel blessed to have met her, known her and to have acted alongside her. Anyone who spent time in her presence will know what an extraordinary shining light she truly was. She will be deeply missed."

Cameron wanted an actress who was "still viable, not alcoholic, rheumatic or falling down," Stuart once said. Then in her mid-80s, Stuart endured hours in the makeup chair so she could look 15 years older, and she traveled to the Atlantic location, where the wreck of the real Titanic was photographed.

Leonardo DiCaprio, who appeared in "Titanic," said Stuart "was a force both on and off screen."

"An amazingly sweet person, a fantastic actress, and someone who always fought for what she believed in. She was one of the last great actresses from the Golden era of Hollywood," DiCaprio said in a statement through his publicist. "I was honored to have worked along side her. She will be missed," he said.

"Titanic" took in $1.8 billion worldwide to become the biggest modern blockbuster, a position it held until Cameron's "Avatar" came along last year and passed it on the box-office chart.

It was the first time in Oscar history that two performers were nominated for playing the same character in the same film, and it made the 87-year-old Stuart the oldest acting nominee in history.

"Anchors aweigh!" Stuart said when nominations were announced in February 1998.

The film's release was preceded by delays and speculation that it could turn into a colossal flop. Of the film's doubters, Stuart said: "They were dissing it all around. That happens in Hollywood."

Stuart was thought by many to be the sentimental favorite for the supporting-actress prize, but the award went to Kim Basinger for "L.A. Confidential."

But she capitalized on her renewed fame by writing a memoir, "I Just Kept Hoping," which raised eyebrows because of its sexual frankness, including reflections on free love and a statement that Stuart was devoted to masturbation.

Shortly after her 100th birthday on July 4, Stuart was honored with a tribute at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

"She talked with a thousand or so people as if they were in her living room," Stuart's daughter said. "She was just the ultimate hostess."

The best known of her early film work came in two of the celebrated series of horror films by director James Whale.

In 1932's "The Old Dark House," Stuart plays one of the travelers who take refuge in a spooky home peopled with strange characters, one played by Boris Karloff, fresh off his star-making turn in Whale's "Frankenstein."

Sarah Palin supports daughter Bristol at 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sarah Palin may be outspoken, but she kept her opinions to herself on "Dancing With the Stars."

The former vice-presidential candidate was in the ABC ballroom Monday to cheer on her daughter, whom she called "Bristol the pistol."

Palin had only good things to say about her daughter's competitors and the show's three judges when interviewed briefly by show host Tom Bergeron.

Palin praised the "courage, joy and exuberance" of the dancers and kept mum about the judges, saying, "It's like a hockey game. You're not going to chew out the refs before your team is up."

Bristol Palin was the night's final performer, collecting 22 points out of 30 for her quickstep with professional partner Mark Ballas.

So what's it like to have mom in the audience?

"It's awesome," the 19-year-old said.

'Jersey' cast supports the 'Situation's' 'DWTS' effort

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino survived his first ballroom dance and he of the etched abs says he's determined to shine on "Dancing With the Stars"—especially with his "Jersey Shore" cast mates cheering him on.

The 29-year-old reality star made his debut on the hit ABC dance competition last week and landed in a three-way tie for last place with comedian Margaret Cho and actor David Hasselhoff. But he escaped elimination when Hasselhoff was ousted.

This week, he faces fellow survivors Jennifer Grey, Florence Henderson, Kyle Massey, Rick Fox, Kurt Warner, Brandy, Michael Bolton, Audrina Patridge and Bristol Palin.

"Jersey Shore" co-star Ronnie Ortiz-Magro says he wishes Sorrentino the best, but will only come to the "Dancing" ballroom "if they want to fly me out and pay for me to go."

Fellow cast mates Jenni "J-Woww" Farley, Sammi "Sweetheart" Giancola and Paul "DJ Pauly D" DelVecchio, however, said they'd be happy to leave Jersey briefly to support their pal in person. But he better do well, they said.

AP

In this publicity image released by ABC, Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, right, and his partner Karina Smirnoff perform on the celebrity dance competition show, "Dancing with the Stars," on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010 in Los Angeles.

Publicist: Lopez, wife ending 17-year marriage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A publicist says George Lopez and his wife are ending their 17-year marriage.

A brief statement issued Monday by publicist Ina Treciokas says the comedian and his wife Ann came to the decision together and the breakup will be amicable.

It did not offer further details, other than to say the pair would remain business partners in a charitable foundation.

Court records did not indicate the couple had filed a petition for divorce or legal separation.

The 49-year-old comedian hosts the late-night talk show "Lopez Tonight" on TBS. Ann Lopez donated a kidney to her husband in 2005.

The pair have a teenage daughter.

The split was first reported by celebrity website TMZ.com.

Ozzy: Booze, not politics, prevented Israeli gigs

JERUSALEM (AP)—Ozzy Osbourne said that alcohol, not politics, has stopped him from playing in Israel until now.

Osbourne is in Israel this week as part of this year's international Ozzfest tour, along with Soulfly and Korn. Tuesday's performance will be his first ever in the Holy Land. Asked why he hadn't played in Israel before, the heavy metal rocker, known for decades of decadence and substance abuse, told reporters in Tel Aviv on Sunday: "I guess I was drunk for so many years."

He said politics had nothing to do with it. "I try to stay away from politics. They don't understand me and I don't understand them," he said, sitting next to his wife Sharon.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Wyclef Jean hospitalized, suffering from 'stress'

NEW YORK (AP)—A representative for hip-hop singer Wyclef Jean says he has been hospitalized at an undisclosed location. The 37-year-old Grammy Award winner checked into a hospital over the weekend. His representative Marian Salzman says he's "suffering from stress and fatigue based on the grueling eight weeks he's had." Jean announced a bid for Haiti's presidency in August but ended it last week. No official reasons were given for Jean's exclusion although he's presumed not to have met constitutional requirements, including living in Haiti. Jean was born on the outskirts of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. He grew up in New York and lives in New Jersey. His rep says he "plans to take it easy" and will be released from the hospital this week. Jean also is planning to release a new album.

Placido Domingo to leave Washington National Opera

WASHINGTON (AP)—Placido Domingo said Monday he will leave the Washington National Opera when his contract expires next year, leaving a company with a higher artistic profile that is still struggling to support itself. Domingo, 69, has been artistic director of the Washington National Opera since 1996 and served as its general director since 2003. The Spanish tenor holds the same title with the Los Angeles Opera and renewed his contract there last week through 2013. In a letter to the opera's board obtained by The Washington Post, Domingo writes that the opera has been transformed into an internationally celebrated company. Still, he raised the possibility of a merger to sustain the opera in Washington. "I think it is time for the company to go in new directions, including studying the possibility of a merger with the Kennedy Center," he wrote. "And you can rest assured that I will do everything I can to help during this, my last year as general director."

'Millionaire' profits judgment upped to $319M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Walt Disney Co. has agreed to a $50 million interest payment to the creators of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" that pushes a jury verdict over the show's profits to more than $319 million. A federal judge approved the agreement between Disney and London-based Celador International, which won the $269.2 million jury award in July. Disney is not waiving its rights to appeal the original verdict, which it called at the time "fundamentally wrong." Celador sued in 2004, accusing Disney of using creative accounting to hide profits. "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" first aired in the United States from August 1999 to May 2002, and returned later that year in syndication.

Mass. city to hold expanded Jack Kerouac festival

LOWELL, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts city is set to hold an expanded version of its annual festival celebrating its most famous writer—Jack Kerouac. The Beat Generation icon was born in Lowell, a city of about 100,000 residents a 40-minute drive northwest of Boston. The four-day event honoring Kerouac is sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Lowell and Lowell Celebrates Kerouac! Inc., a nonprofit organization founded in 1985 to promote a better understanding and appreciation of his life and literature. The event begins Thursday and will feature tours of places Kerouac frequented and wrote about. It also will highlight readings by best-selling writers including Anita Shreve and Russell Banks. This is the 22nd Jack Kerouac Literary Festival. Kerouac published more than 20 books of prose and poetry, most famously "On the Road." He died in 1969.

British TV stations win news International Emmys

NEW YORK (AP)—Two British television stations have won International Emmy Awards in the news and current affairs categories for their coverage of the Taliban in Pakistan. Sky News received the award in the news category for its March 2009 report that the Taliban were in control of a large region in Pakistan. The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced that the award in the current affairs category went to "Dispatches—Pakistan's Taliban Generation," a special produced by October Film for Channel 4. The show investigated how the Pakistani Taliban is creating a generation of child terrorists prepared to kill both inside and outside Pakistan. The awards were presented Monday night during a ceremony at the Frederick P. Rose Hall of Jazz at Lincoln Center at which the U.S. News & Documentary Emmy Awards were also handed out.

Man must sort out attractions before he is ready to marry

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: After many months of dating a wonderful woman, "Amy," we have set a date for our wedding. However, there's a problem. As the date draws closer, Amy is concerned about my lack of physical intimacy with her.

While I am very attracted to her, I am having some doubts. I recently noticed a young man at my health club and experienced some unfamiliar feelings. I don't think I am gay, but I am no longer sure that Amy is what I have been looking for.

Should I push these feelings aside and continue our plans for the wedding? Or should I tell Amy the truth about these feelings?

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SEARCHING: You should absolutely tell your fiancee the truth about the feelings you're having—all of them. To marry a woman knowing you might be more attracted to a young man at your health club would bring everyone involved great pain. It is very important that you find out who you are and what you're looking for before coupling up with anyone. While Amy may not be thrilled to hear what you have to say, you owe it to her and to yourself to be frank before this goes any further.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I dated for eight years before we were married two years ago. He has a son from a previous relationship, and we have a 9-month-old son together.

My problem is my mother-in-law. More often than not, she calls me by my stepson's mother's name. Abby, that woman and my husband haven't been together for more than 12 years!

My husband thinks I'm making a big deal out of nothing. He says I should forget about it, but it bothers me. My relationship with his mother has suffered because of it. She lives near us and helps out with watching our baby, so I see her quite often. What are your thoughts on this?

ALSO KNOWN AS ...

DEAR A.K.A.: If your mother-in-law's slip of the tongue happened occasionally, I would agree with your husband that it's no big deal. Because it happens often, it appears the woman is doing it deliberately. Have you confronted her about it and told her how hurtful it is? If you haven't, you should. And if it doesn't stop, then you're within your rights to limit your time with her and/or arrange for other supervision for your baby. It would be confusing for him to grow up around a grandmother who calls his mother by a stranger's name.

DEAR ABBY: When I am out with my friends, they can't keep their hands and eyes off their cell phones. They sit there and text whatever guy they're involved with, and I feel like they would rather be with anyone else but me.

I have talked to them about it, but they say I "don't understand" because I have never been in a relationship. Abby, I'm not jealous because they have guys to talk to. I am hurt that my friends think cyber communication is more important than spending time with friends. What do you think?

TEXTED OUT IN TEXAS

DEAR TEXTED OUT: I'm glad you asked. It is rude for people to behave the way you have described. Good manners dictate that people give their undivided attention to those they are with. To do otherwise sends the signal that their present company is less important.

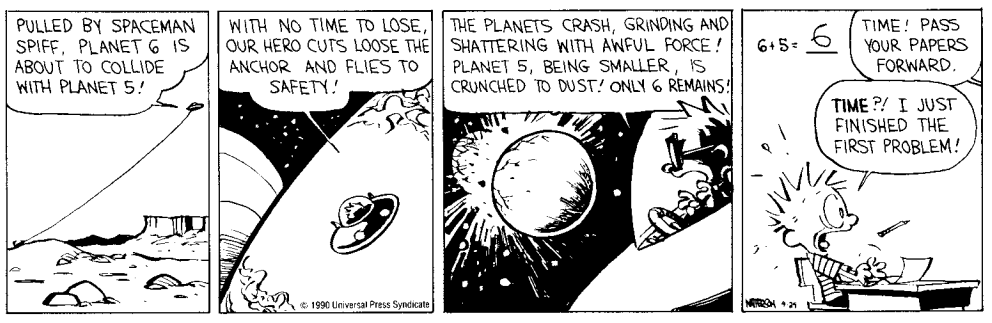
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

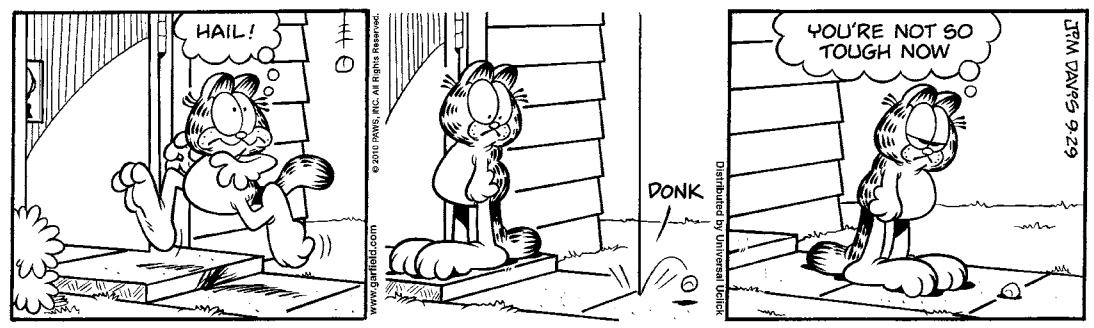
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PULLED BY SPACEMAN SPIFF, PLANET 6 IS ABOUT TO COLLIDE WITH PLANET 5!
WITH NO TIME TO LOSE, OUR HERO CUTS LOOSE THE ANCHOR AND FLIES TO SAFETY!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
THE PLANETS CRASH, GRINDING AND SHATTERING WITH AWFUL FORCE! PLANET 5, BEING SMALLER, IS CRUNCHED TO DUST! ONLY 6 REMAINS!
6+5=6
TIME! PASS YOUR PAPERS FORWARD.
TIME?! I JUST FINISHED THE FIRST PROBLEM!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

GIVE ME THE WHOLE TOOTH, DOC. I CAN TAKE IT.
GOOD ONE, MR. NEWMAN.
DOC, ONE THING. IF IT'S BAD, I MUST TELL YOU I'M SCARED OF NEEDLES.
WELL, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU SOME GAS.
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR DISCRETION THERE.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
9-29

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

EXCUSE ME. THIS SAYS ONE GALLON.
HOW COULD THERE BE A GALLON IN THIS LITTLE CARTON?!
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
9-29
THAT'S CONDENSED MILK.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Honest politician
4 Spring
8 Unrivaled
12 Water barrier
13 Frizzy coiffure
14 State with certainty
15 Sapporo sash
16 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical
18 John's 2008 running mate
20 Vast expanse
21 Salon request
24 Wept
28 Accesses to greens
32 Busy with
33 Curved path
34 Struck, old-style
36 Pool stick
37 Maintain
39 Don't cheat
41 Simplifies
43 "Sopranos" actress de Matteo
44 As well
46 Perjury
50 "Cinderella", e.g.
55 — de Oro
56 Hodgepodge
57 Foolish sort
58 Lennon's lady
59 $50 "Monopoly" payment
60 Automaker Ransom Eli —
61 Homer's neighbor

DOWN
1 Commotions
2 Rum cake
3 Eastern potentate
4 Kidney-shaped nuts
5 Frequently
6 Playwright Levin
7 Many
8 Jungle trek
9 Eggs
10 Mainlander's memento
11 Mess up
17 Common Mkt.
19 Taxpayer's mo.
22 Freeway access
23 "— Kentucky Home"
25 Erstwhile Peruvian
26 Needle case
27 Active one
28 Counterfeit
29 Vicinity
30 Summer desserts
31 Celeb
35 Holes for shoelaces
38 Fuel for a Bentley
40 Actress Wray
42 Sauce source
45 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
47 Press
48 Baseball team
49 Suitable
50 Watch chain
51 Carte lead-in
52 Midafternoon, on a sundial
53 Piercing tool
54 Cover

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	A	F	T	■	C	L	E	F	■	C	H	A
O	G	L	E	■	L	I	M	A	■	O	U	R
B	O	U	N	T	I	F	U	L	■	U	L	T
■	■	■	D	O	P	E	■	L	A	N	K	Y
Y	E	M	E	N	■	■	O	A	S	T	■	■
O	D	O	R	■	M	A	R	C	H	E	R	S
L	I	U	■	H	O	N	E	Y	■	D	O	E
K	E	N	B	U	R	N	S	■	B	O	A	R
■	■	T	U	R	K	■	■	H	E	N	N	A
C	H	E	S	T	■	L	O	U	D	■	■	■
H	I	T	■	F	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	S
I	N	N	■	U	R	G	E	■	U	V	E	A
P	T	A	■	L	O	S	S	■	B	E	E	P

Yesterday's answer 9-29

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erika Eleniak, 41; Roger Bart, 48; Bryant Gumbel, 62; Jerry Lee Lewis, 75

Happy Birthday: A change of lifestyle or connecting with people having similar backgrounds, traditions or interests will help you make the right choices. Strive for perfection in areas of your life but give yourself a break, as well. Being too self-critical can end up holding you back. Your numbers are 6, 14, 19, 22, 33, 42, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Communication will be your ticket to advancement. Follow your thoughts with actions. Use your imagination and you will entice someone who interests you to get involved in whatever you are pursuing. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't let anyone discourage you. If you have made plans or arrangements that will help you change your vocation or enable you to advance, keep moving in that direction. Your determination will impress the person making the decision that will influence your future. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't rely on others to speak for you or to help you get what you want. Your only course of action should be to strive for the goals you set, using your own experience and know-how. Don't let an emotional incident hold you back. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You need to get away—whether it's a mental or physical break. Take your mind off your worries or spark your imagination by relaxing. Don't let added burdens stop you from making the alterations you need to make to be happy. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Sharing what you know and can do with people who have something to offer in return will help you move forward. Don't let a love relationship or emotional problem at home stop you from taking advantage of an opportunity for a better position or lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stick to what you know and do best and don't let anyone get under your skin or cause you grief. Focus on work and doing a unique, outstanding job. What you do and the way you present your skills will help you win in the end. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take control of your life instead of trying to keep the peace by letting someone else call the shots. You have to do your own thing or you will not be happy. Travel, learning and communications highlight your day, so make all three count. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be passionate about whatever and whoever comes into your life today. Take the time to interact with people you find interesting and to utilize your skills to attract like-minded individuals. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Difficulties are apparent when it comes to your personal relationships and business partnerships. Be careful regarding the information you share. Change is apparent but it doesn't have to limit you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be willing to do things a little differently and you will find an angle that works for you and can lead to greater prosperity. Change is upon you and good fortune is heading your way. Don't give up or give in. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let love hold you back. If someone puts demands on you or tries to stand in your way, question this person's motivations. Surround yourself with the people who support your efforts and encourage you. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotional matters at home may be daunting but, if you apply practical applications to any problems or issues you face, you will be able to find solutions. There is money to be made and domestic changes that can be accomplished. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and caring but keep your feelings to yourself. You strive for perfection and can be critical and demanding when it comes to your goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	4	3	1	9		
	9						2	
1								
3								
4				1	2	7	5	3
6								8
5								4
	7						6	
		8	7	6	3	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	7	4	9	6	8	5	3
5	4	8	3	2	7	6	1	9
3	6	9	1	8	5	2	4	7
1	5	3	7	6	8	9	2	4
4	9	6	2	5	1	7	3	8
8	7	2	9	4	3	5	6	1
6	8	4	5	3	9	1	7	2
7	2	5	8	1	4	3	9	6
9	3	1	6	7	2	4	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

COLLEGE PARTIES — **Solution: 7 letters**

C	A	M	E	R	A	S	G	R	A	P	E	S	C	N
S	U	P	M	A	C	C	U	N	E	N	A	M	O	R
S	T	T	H	E	M	E	H	M	I	M	R	S	N	T
G	H	N	N	T	V	S	W	E	M	P	A	E	T	L
N	E	E	W	E	R	I	I	C	E	E	M	G	E	E
I	N	L	E	O	M	A	L	O	S	S	R	O	S	B
V	T	O	L	T	R	N	D	Y	D	N	E	R	T	D
R	I	O	S	S	S	C	I	I	S	H	R	N	N	S
E	C	H	P	T	(H)	C	H	A	T	I	C	A	E	U
S	W	C	M	(S)	O	O	N	A	T	I	L	M	L	S
D	I	S	(A)	L	S	D	E	U	R	R	O	E	E	I
W	R	(B)	L	T	A	R	A	C	A	P	E	N	G	M
I	E	E	I	L	W	L	L	G	I	G	I	T	A	P
N	G	N	S	G	U	E	S	T	S	U	O	S	N	L
E	G	M	E	S	T	E	F	F	U	B	J	T	T	E

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Authentic, Bash, Beer, Belt, Buffet, Cameras, Campus, Cheese, Circlet, College, Colors, Contest, Crown, Dress, Elegant, Entertainment, Game, Garland, Grapes, Guests, Harpist, Hosting, Juice, Lamps, Live, Ornaments, Ritual, Roman, Sandals, School, Season, Servings, Sheets, Simple, Stomping, Summer, Theme, Toga, Traditional, Trendy, Wild, Wine, Wire, Wreath

Yesterday's Answer: Fertilizer

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but this puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 pair for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Fool around

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANGELITA PRESAS TALADTAD, Petitioner, vs. ALBERTO TUMANON TALADTAD, Respondent.	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 09-0560R SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on filed with the Court, within 30 days after service of the Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner which is:

P.O. Box 1537, Rota, MP 96951

As soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It can be prepared for your by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2010.

CLERK OF COURT
BERNADITA A. SABLAN

/s/ Winniefred DLG. Mendiola, Dep. Clerk

SAIPAN MARINE CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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10-049	Compliance Officer	1	$27,921.00 - $36,297.00	Two-year	Admin. Office, Saipan
10-050	Information Technology (IT) Specialist	2	$19,425.00 - $25,981.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-051	Information Technology (IT) Analyst	2	$34,176.00 - $44,429.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-052	Accountant	1	$34,176.00 - $41,011.00	Two-year	Accounting, Saipan

*For more information about the position (s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the human resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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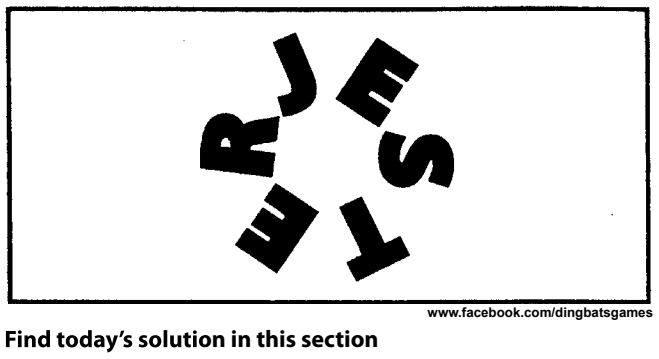

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Find today's solution in this section

On eve of Heat camp, James takes center stage

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP)—In one breath, LeBron James insisted that he's moved past the venom directed his way after he chose to join the Miami Heat. In the next, the NBA's two-time reigning MVP said all those naysayers out there are his fuel.

Which rings true?

Apparently, both.

"I don't want to keep harping about what people have said about me," James said. "But personally, I'm motivated by what has gone on this summer."

Music to the collective Heat ears, right there. Donning his new Heat home uniform and spending the afternoon flanked by fellow star teammates Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, James began a new Miami chapter Monday, hours before his team was to fly north for training camp in Florida's Panhandle.

Since "The Decision," as it's known, James has been called a quitter by Cleveland owner and former boss Dan Gilbert, had his competitiveness questioned by the Orlando Magic, heard Dallas owner Mark Cuban say he made a bad business deal, and found himself taking note of what was written and said by countless pundits.

It's all made James feel like he has something to prove again.

"It's funny how things happen in life and how people react," James said. "It seems like a lot of people try to tell you what to do with your life and most of the time they don't even have their own life in order. That was just funny to me. So I'm really excited for this opportunity for this franchise, getting an opportunity to bring my game to this city."

James signed a $109.8 million, six-year deal with Miami on July 9, one day after starring in an hourlong TV special to announce he was leaving Cleveland. He hasn't reached out to Gilbert, but has spoken with teammates he left behind and predicts Cleveland could exceed outside expectations this season.

Here in Miami, the Heat can't exceed expectations, only meet them. This team was built to win titles, and James shrugged off the notion this season was "championship-or-bust."

"Not bust," James said. "But it is championship."

"Ditto," Wade added. "What he said."

It won't be easy, of course, which will be the message Heat coach Erik Spoelstra begins instilling Tuesday morning at Hurlburt Field, the U.S. Air Force installation where Miami's journey will begin.

Spoelstra and James have gotten to know each other a bit over the summer, from voluntary workouts at the team's arena to some lunches where conversations often drifted away from basketball. A bond is getting forged already, much like the one Spoelstra and Wade quickly began sharing seven years ago.

"He's been very serious," Spoelstra said. "He's a motivated player right now. I think it took a tremendous amount of courage to take the step that he did. It is a step of faith to come to our franchise, to really sacrifice so many things, to subject himself to possible criticism, to come to a franchise where he wants to be part of something even if that means he has to give up a little part of himself."

AP

Miami Heat players, from left, Chris Bosh, LeBron James, and Dwyane Wade share a laugh during an interview as they participate in Media Day activities, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010 in Coral Gables, Fla.

James isn't totally settled in Miami yet. He is still apparently searching for a permanent home, hasn't even figured out the traffic patterns or scouted out the most efficient way to get to the arena for workouts and games.

But he did clear up some issues: His elbow, a problem in Cleveland's season-ending playoff series with Boston last spring, is pain-free again. He remains convinced he made the right decision. His family is thrilled about the prospects of Miami. And he already feels a bond with teammates that he didn't know as well as he did Wade and Bosh before choosing to join the Heat.

"The game of basketball is fun," James said. "This summer has been probably one of the longest summers I've had, not in a bad way, but it's just been a long summer. The game will always be fun to me. I can't wait to get out to practice tomorrow. But it's all about business for me. It's less antics and more about the game of basketball. We're ready."

His role remains undefined in Miami, strange as that sounds for a reigning MVP. Spoelstra's deadpan line throughout the summer has been that he's pretty sure on who three of his starters will be come opening night. The other two jobs will be decided in the coming weeks—and with them, it'll be known how much James and Wade are called upon to handle the ball.

James said he doesn't care how his job is defined.

"I can do everything," he said.

And with that statement comes another dichotomy. He came to Miami, he said, partly because he didn't want to have to shoulder an overwhelming amount of the workload in a championship quest. He tried it that way in Cleveland, never winning the ring he seeks.

So in Miami, he won't do everything. Doesn't think he'll have to, either.

"We all understand this is the ultimate team sport," James said. "No one can win it all by himself. I know that by example."

Nuggets All-Star Anthony arrives at media day

DENVER (AP)—Carmelo Anthony wouldn't come out and say he wants out of Denver. His inaction has indicated otherwise.

Anthony hasn't signed a $65 million extension that's been on the table since June, leading the Nuggets to engage in trade talks for their superstar forward who has led them to the playoffs in each of his seven seasons.

The All-Star fidgeted in his seat during media day Monday and talked around questions concerning his future with the team.

"I'm here, man. I'm here today. Whatever the future holds, it holds," Anthony said. "Practice starts tomorrow and we'll go from there."

Anthony arrived wearing his white, powder blue and gold uniform. But just how much longer he may be donning that jersey didn't get any clearer. He said he planned to be "committed 100 percent" when training camp began Tuesday.

"There's been a lot of speculation, a lot of rumors going on this summer about where I'm going to end up, the Nuggets want to trade me, I want to be traded," Anthony said. "That's for my team and front office to discuss. I'm here to focus on basketball and training camp."

The Nuggets have been engaging in talks with teams interested in acquiring Anthony. A potential mega-deal with New Jersey hit a snag over the weekend, putting the Nuggets and Anthony in the awkward position of being together with camp set to start.

The new management team of executive vice president of basketball operations Masai Ujiri and president Josh Kroenke began entertaining offers for their star when he let the three-year, $65 million contract sit without his signature.

Asked if signing the extension still remained a possibility, Anthony said, "Right now, I'm leaving my options open."

"At the end of the season, I'll sit down with my team, sit down with the Nuggets, we'll discuss it and go from there," said Anthony, who showed up at the news conference wearing no shoes.

He also insisted he's never requested a trade.

"I never once said that," Anthony said.

When Ujiri came on board in late August, he maintained that keeping Anthony in a Nuggets uniform for the long-term remained at the top of his to-do list. But he said Monday was the first time he and Anthony had spoken face to face.

Before that, they had only spoken by phone.

"Obviously, me and Melo have talked and he's told me exactly how he feels. I've told him how I feel," Ujiri said. "We're going to continue talking about it."

Ujiri wouldn't say whether he's still chatting with other teams about trades. Or if it remains a possibility to hold onto Anthony and potentially deal him at the trade deadline in February.

If the Nuggets don't deal him by then, they risk losing him without compensation. By trading him away, they could get a young player in return plus draft picks and veterans with expiring contracts that would give them maneuverability after this season to reshape their roster.

"I'm not going to talk about time frames," Ujiri said. "Melo is a Nugget and I'm excited he's here and we'll go from there."

Denver has quite a list of potential free agents at the end of the season, including Kenyon Martin and head coach George Karl.

Karl expressed a strong desire to stick around.

"I would like to retire in Denver," said Karl, who's back on the bench after missing the end of last season while undergoing treatment for throat and neck cancer. "We're just going to have to go out there and win games and let winning take care of what happens."

Anthony would definitely help in that department. He averaged 28.2 points last season in leading the Nuggets to their second straight Northwest Division title.

"I don't know why he wants to leave or if he does want to leave. My thing is to try to keep him here. We have a positive relationship," Karl said. "Four years ago, Kobe Bryant said he wanted out and then six weeks later he loved his team and they went on to win two championships. Maybe I'll give Phil (Jackson) a call and he can tell me what he did."

On Monday morning, teammate J.R. Smith posted "He back!" on Twitter, along with a picture of Anthony in the locker room.

Smith remained hopeful that Anthony will stay his teammate for a while.

"I'm expecting him to be here. I'm expecting and hoping," Smith said. "I talked to him a couple of days ago and he said he was going to be here today. He's a man of his word so I wasn't surprised when he showed up."

In conversations with Anthony, Martin has given him simple advice: Keep his head up.

"He's got enough people in his ear about basketball," said Martin, who's expected to miss time as he recovers from offseason knee surgery.

When asked if he thought there was any chance Anthony sticks around, Martin retorted: "He's still here, ain't he? He's still got that 1-5 on his chest that says Nuggets above it. I'm his teammate. I ain't worried about that."

Nuggets leader Chauncey Billups isn't pushing or prodding Anthony, either.

"He knows that the city loves him. I don't have to tell him that," Billups said. "He knows that we love playing with him. I don't have to tell him that. He knows everything. I really don't have to recruit Melo.

"I really can't affect it in any way. Because of that, I've kind of taken myself out of it and worried about the team and what we can do."

Braves nose ahead in wild-card race

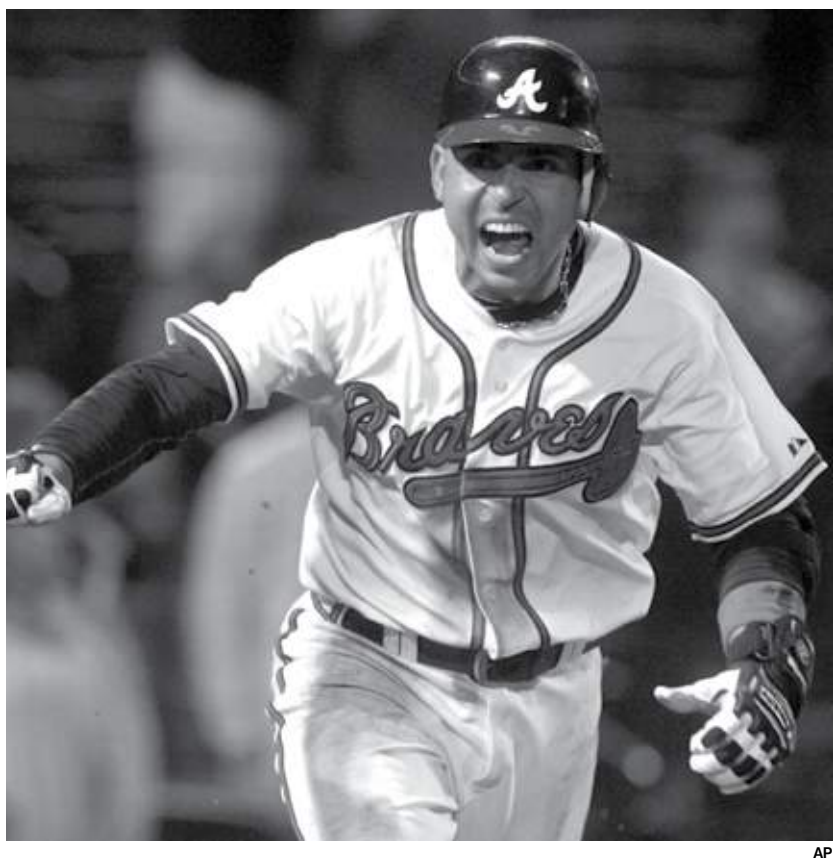
ATLANTA (AP)—Omar Infante singled home the winning run with two outs in the 11th inning as the Atlanta Braves beat the Florida Marlins 2-1 on Monday to keep up their push for the National League wild-card spot.

The Braves moved half a game in front of San Diego for the wild card with five games to play.

The Braves had lost five of six, scoring a total of just nine runs in that span. They barely scored enough to win this time at Turner Field, where they have the best home record in the majors at 53-23.

Nate McLouth opened the 11th with a walk and moved up on a sacrifice by Alex Gonzalez. Rick Ankiel walked and both runners moved up on a wild pitch. After a strike out, Infante hit a full-count pitch from Jose Veras (3-3) down the left-field line.

Atlanta's Mike Dunn (2-0) picked up the win getting the final out in the top of the 11th.



AP

Atlanta Braves' Omar Infante reacts after hitting the game winning RBI single against the Florida Marlins during the 11th inning of a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010, in Atlanta.

Phillies 8, Nationals 0

In Washington, Philadelphia is the NL East champion for the fourth consecutive year, sealing the honor with a win over Washington.

Fittingly, the clinching victory came from a Roy Halladay (21-10) shutout—his fourth of the season and ninth complete game, both of which are highs in the majors this season.

He will head to the playoffs for the first time in his 13th major league season, having played his entire career with Toronto before switching teams for this season.

Halladay gave up only two singles, didn't walk a single batter and struck out six. He faced the minimum 21 batters through seven innings, as a third-inning hit was negated when the next batter grounded into a double play.

Dodgers 3, Rockies 1

In Denver, Ted Lilly dominated for eight innings to steer Los Angeles past Colorado.

He gave up one homer, but otherwise bewildered the Rockies. Of Lilly's (9-12) eight strikeouts, five were called.

The reeling Rockies fell five games behind idle San Francisco in the NL West with just six games remaining. Colorado has lost seven of eight since pulling within a game of the divisional lead on Sept. 18.

Colorado starter Ubaldo Jimenez (19-8) has one more start, at St. Louis next weekend, to try to become the franchise's first 20-game winner. He went 15-1 in the first half of the season but has found victories hard to come by since.

Cubs 1, Padres 0

In San Diego, Carlos Zambrano won his seventh straight decision since rejoining Chicago's rotation, helping to knock San Diego out of the wild-card lead.

The Padres, who loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth before Nick Hundley flied out to left, dropped half a game off wild-card holder Atlanta and a full game behind NL West leader San Francisco.

It was only the second time in 11 games dating to last year that the Cubs beat the Padres.

Cardinals 6, Pirates 4

In St. Louis, the hosts beat Pittsburgh to stay in the NL Central race for at least one more day.

A Cardinals loss would have clinched the division for Cincinnati. The Reds were idle but can still claim the crown with a win in Tuesday's home game against Houston.

Matt Holliday homered and drove in three runs, tying the game at 4-4 with a two run shot in the sixth.

Blue Jays 7, Yankees 5

In Toronto, Vernon Wells hit a three-run homer and the Toronto Blue Jays hung on for a win over New York that delayed the Yankees clinching a playoff spot in the American League.

New York has lost five of six and remains half a game behind Tampa Bay in the AL East division race with five games to play.

John Buck added a solo shot for Toronto, which assured itself of at least a .500 finish.

The Blue Jays lead the major leagues with 243 home runs this season, one shy of the team record set in 2000.

Toronto starter Marc Rzepczynski (3-4) allowed four hits in five innings to win back-to-back starts for the first time this season. He matched a career high with nine strikeouts.

Red Sox 6, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Clay Buchholz outpitched Mark Buehrle to steer Boston past Chicago.

A Red Sox loss would've locked up playoff spots for the Rays and Yankees. Instead, Boston took an early lead, pulled away and stayed mathematically in the wild-card race while the two AL East rivals lost.

Buchholz (17-7) pitched eight innings, striking out five and walking only one to give Boston the opener of this four-game series.

Buehrle (12-13) gave up 11 hits in six innings and lost his third straight decision.

Royals 10, Twins 8

In Kansas City, Jarrod Dyson hit his first major league home run and caught 10 fly balls in center field, helping Kansas City beat Minnesota.

Dyson, called up from the minors earlier this month, snapped an 0-for-15 skid with a two-run homer in a six-run second inning.

Dyson also tied a team record for putouts by an outfielder. Amos Otis (1979) and Carlos Beltran (1998) also had 10 each.

Orioles 4, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Brian Matusz pitched seven impressive innings to guide Baltimore past Tampa Bay.

Matusz (9-12) matched a career high with eight strikeouts.

Nick Markakis had an RBI triple off Rays rookie Wade Davis (13-9) in the fifth inning. The Orioles scored three times in the seventh, with Markakis delivering a run-scoring single.

Mariners 7, Rangers 5

In Arlington, Texas, Justin Smoak homered and had three hits to power Seattle over Texas.

Smoak, traded to the Mariners by the Rangers in the Cliff Lee deal in July, hit a towering three-run shot in the fifth off C.J. Wilson (14-8) that extended Seattle's lead to 6-1.

Seattle starter David Pauley (4-8) allowed only two runs in six innings.

Entering Monday night's start, the Mariners had scored only 18 runs this season in Pauley's first 13 starts. This time, his teammates provided him with some offense. Pauley is winless in six home decisions, but is 4-2 on the road.

Indians 6, Tigers 3

In Cleveland, Andres Galarraga went from unhittable to giving up three homers in an 18-pitch span as Cleveland beat Detroit.

Galarraga (5-8) didn't give up a hit until Matt LaPorta hit a 412-foot homer leading off the fifth. One out later, Luke Carlin homered to right. Travis Hafner hit a three-run shot with two outs for a 5-2 lead.

The Tigers lost slugger Miguel Cabrera to an apparent ankle injury when trying to get back to first on a pick-off attempt.

Cutler, Bears beat Packers, 20-17

CHICAGO (AP)—Still doubting the Bears?

Jay Cutler threw for 221 yards, Brian Urlacher forced a key fumble and Chicago took advantage of a team-record 18 penalties by the Packers to beat Green Bay 20-17 on Monday night.

Robbie Gould won it with a 19-yard field goal with 4 seconds left. The Packers' James Jones lost a fumble on a hit by Urlacher in the final minutes. Then Morgan Burnett was called for pass interference on Earl Bennett, setting up the winning kick.

Chicago is 3-0 and alone atop the NFC North. The Packers fell to 2-1.

"It's fun, that is all you can ask for," Cutler said. "The defense did a great job, we struggled the whole game, felt like we kind of were killing ourselves."

The Bears kept insisting they were contenders through a sloppy preseason and less-than-inspiring opening win over Detroit. Since then, they turned heads with a win at Dallas last week, and stamped themselves as contenders by beating Green Bay—with lots of help from the Packers.

The Bears had tied it at 17 on a 25-yard field goal by Gould when Urlacher jarred the ball out of Jones' hands after the receiver caught a pass from Aaron Rodgers near midfield. Tim Jennings recovered, giving Chicago the ball on the Packers 46 with 2:18 remaining.

Soon after, another penalty cost the Packers in a big way.

On second down at the 33, Cutler tried to hit Bennett deep along the right sideline and Burnett basically hammered him, wiping out an interception by Nick Collins and putting the ball at the 9.

Three plays later, Chicago walked away with a wild win and the only undefeated record in the NFC.

"We didn't play our best game and won. That's got to be a good sign," coach Lovie Smith said.

As for the Packers?

"It was an uncharacteristic game on offense for us, well, just as a team," Rodgers said. "Way too many penalties."

Devin Hester delivered his first touchdown return in three years when he ran back a punt 62 yards in the fourth quarter, giving the Bears a short-lived 14-10 lead.

Rodgers threw for 316 yards and a touchdown and also scored on a 3-yard run that gave the Packers a 17-14 lead in the fourth period. Jermichael Finley had nine catches for 115 yards, but the sloppiness simply caught up with the Packers in the end.

Cutler completed 16 of 27 passes with a touchdown and interception. Johnny Knox had four catches for 94 yards.

Chicago held its longtime rival to 63 yards rushing, but the Bears had only 77 themselves. That turned it into an air game for much of the night.

Hester had just put the Bears ahead by four in the opening seconds of the fourth quarter when the Packers responded with a 62-yard touchdown drive.

A roughing-the-passer penalty on Henry Melton gave them a first down at the 3. Rodgers, who cramped up a few plays earlier, rolled to his right and lunged into the end zone, making it 17-14.

Then the Packers basically gave it away.

Frank Zombo got called for a helmet-on-helmet hit against Cutler on the next drive that erased an interception by Nick Barnett. On second down, Collins got called for a late hit on Matt Forte after a 15-yard reception, putting the ball on the Packers 29.

Gould made the 25-yard field goal to tie it with 3:59 left.

Hester's return eased the sting after the Bears again were stopped at the goal line for the second time this season when choosing not to go for the field goal. It happened late in the third quarter after Julius Peppers blocked Mason Crosby's 37-yard field goal.

The Bears took over on the 18 and marched to the Packers 1, only to come up short again. Cutler fired a 5-yard pass to a kneeling Bennett between defenders on third down, and the officials ruled Tramon Williams touched Bennett before he leaned over the goal line.

So coach Lovie Smith had to decide to kick the tying field goal or go for the touchdown.

Just as he did in the opener, he went for the end zone. This time, Desmond Clark dropped a potential TD pass and Chicago came away empty-handed.

Hester, however, showed his old explosiveness. He took a punt at the 38, broke up the right sideline and didn't stop until he reached the end zone in a familiar scene, albeit one that hadn't played in a while. It was 12th time he's returned a kickoff or punt for a touchdown and the first since Dec. 30, 2007.

"We've been waiting for Devin to come back and he was back tonight," Smith said. "Of course it was outstanding on that one touchdown run, but even before that it just felt like every time he went back there he had a chance to score."

The Bears wore throwback 1940s jerseys to honor the Monsters of the Midway. They also honored George Blanda, who died Monday, with a moment of silence before the game.

And they made a surprising move, holding out defensive tackle Tommie Harris for reasons that were not immediately clear.

A three-time Pro Bowl pick, Harris was benched for a game last season and suspended for one in 2008 because of detrimental conduct. He has also been limited by knee and hamstring injuries over the past four years, although he was not listed on the Bears' injury report leading up to Monday's game.

He has insisted he is healthy, but he is also off to a slow start.

NMBA, Traders Insurance hold team tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jojo Savellano reaches for the shuttlecock during a Northern Marianas Badminton Associaton-organized doubles tournament in July at the REM Centre in Gualo Rai. NMBA will be holding a team tournament next month.

NMBA Badminton action returns on Saipan next month, as the Northern Marianas Badminton Association holds the 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the REM Centre in Gualo Rai.

After completing the 2010 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Competition in July, NMBA will have a team tournament this time, opening the fourth edition of the annual event on Oct. 22.

Interested teams have until Oct. 3 to register. Each squad is required to have two players each from the men's A and B divisions and women's B and one male and female players in the C division.

Registration fee is $25 per player. Games will be played every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday or on Oct. 22-24, Oct. 29-31, Nov. 5-7, and Nov. 13 to 15.

NMBA is expecting to lure seven teams in the round-robin tournament. In the playoffs, only four teams will qualify with the No. 1 team facing the No. 4 squad in the semis and the No. 2 and 3 teams colliding in the other semis pairing.

There will be a general meeting for representatives of participating squads on Oct. 9 at 6:30pm at the REM Centre for the drawing of teams.

Last year's Traders Insurance team tournament had the Magnum Smashers winning the championship against five others squads.

The Smashers finished the round-robin tournament last year with a 29-15 record, getting the No. 1 spot at the end of the event and automatically claiming the championship.

The champion squad was composed of team captain Ferdie Arago, Andreu Galvez, Paul Navarro, Obet Aguilar, Jaja Samonte, Lucelle Lampera, Anna Alvarez, Cris Hilario, Rafael Zapanta, and Annette Quiambao.

The Katipuneros and TNT Bombers tied for second place, followed by the Air Benders, Sizzlers, and the Star Aces. The Bombers and Katipuneros had identical 27-17 records, the Air Bender tallied a 26-18 mark, while the Sizzlers and Star Aces posted 18-26 and 16-28 records, respectively.

BILL

From Page 28

Office of the Governor.

Another amendment sought in the bill is about levying reasonable fees for the usage of the facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex and for advertisement and promotion of its activities and exclusively awarding vending rights at the facilities and premises in consultation and concurrence with the DCCA secretary.

The last two amendments seek to allow NMASA to hold and expend funds and property to accomplish the purpose of the association in consultation with the DCCA secretary and prepare and submit a budget pursuant to 1 CMC 7206 and a copy of such submission be provided to the DCCA secretary.

Willing to take over

When asked to comment about the bill, NMASA president Michael White said the association for many years has been looking forward to assuming responsibility in taking care of the Oleai Sports Complex.

"For many years, NMASA has strongly supported the prospect of assuming responsibility for the administration of sports facilities in the Northern Marianas. We believe that, as a non-governmental organization devoted solely to the sporting community, we can do a better job of managing these facilities, for the benefit of everyone who uses them," White said.

"However, it is clear that there is no way that these facilities can be self-sustaining based solely upon revenues derived from user fees and charges. For this reason, if we are going to assume responsibility for management of these facilities, we would need an annual appropriation, sufficient to cover personnel and other operational costs. If such an appropriation is part of the proposed legislation, I am certain that NMASA will support it," White said.

Wait-and-see mode

DCCA secretary Melvin Faisao when asked to comment on the bill, responded via e mail sent to press secretary Angel Demapan and copy furnished to *Saipan Tribune*.

"I haven't seen this House Bill 17-112. However, I am not sure whether it is an amendment to Public Law 4-66. As noted, currently NMASA through statutory power has been designated as the lead agency on approving exclusive right in the usage of any sports complex facility in the CNMI. Concurrently, Executive Order 94-3 placed the said agency under the purview of the Division of Sports and Recreation (a division of DCCA)," a portion of Faisao's letter stated.

"Needless to say, I am requesting a copy of this House bill and does it contain any amendments to the Public Law 11-106 such as there should be no disparity on funding received under this statute to pay for all electrical expense for sports facility that are currently on DCCA designated public lands," he added in his letter.

Under the present setup, associations holding tournaments at the Oleai Sports Complex have to ask permission from DCCA through the Division of Sports and Recreation for the use of the facilities.

Organizers of basketball leagues also pay for power usage at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Power usage fees are also charged to league/tournament organizers using the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield for night games. Korean pro baseball teams used the two ballfields at the Oleai Sports Complex for winter training and they too pay for power usage.

The facilities are maintained and manage by Division of Sports and Recreation staff headed by director Joe Lizama, who has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*' s email, asking for his comments about the bill.

FITIAL

From Page 28

aware of the potential for this fight to go to the mat. He gave me all he had and I gave it right back to him. We banged it out right from the start…Later he tried to take me down, but I fended it off and caught with a big hook so I rushed him after sensing he was hurt and the referee called it off soon after," said Fitial.

Being five years older with over 20 under his belt, Fitial was the more experienced fighter coming into the bout; he was also better able to zone out the noise produced by the large crowd.

"When these two guys stepped in the ring, it was a slugfest right when they touched gloves…they were punching non-stop for three minutes and really did bring fireworks to the show at the end. Kelvin had [Jun] on the ropes and blasted him with a big left hook that caused [Jun] to turn his back to Kelvin and face the crowd with a blank stare on his face. Kelvin moved in to finish him off, but the referee saved [Jun]," said Fitial cornerman Lionel Borja.

"I'd like to give a shout out to my fans, Dexter Mendiola from Fotten Gaga, Guam sponsor Rush Gear, Marianas Elite, GIG for throwing me a going-away fundraiser party and all of my supporters. I had a lot of fun at the event…It was an honor to represent the CNMI and feels even better to come home a winner," said Fitial.

Borja added that Fitial could have won the Knockout of the Night bonus and failed to do so only because the referee stepped in and called it off.

Borja also said that most of the other fights of the evening were a little slow and the crowd became impatient and booed as the main event neared.

Fitial is still weighing his options about his next fight. Right now he plans to focus on training his Marianas Elite fighters, while waiting for some attractive offers to come in.

Fitial returned home last Saturday after his weeklong trip to Hong Kong. During his stay he also observed a light show at Hong Kong's Avenue of the Stars.

The Avenue of Stars opened on April 28, 2004 as a salute to eminent Hong Kong film workers for their devoted contribution to local and world theatres located at the Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade.

RJ

From Page 28

Macaranas and Charlie Reiter, of Palm Desert, were tied at the 36-hole tournament after two rounds, carding identical scores of 72 (37 and 35). However, Macaranas won when he saved par on the playoff hole against Reiter's bogey.

"I shot a 1-under par 35 on the final round for an even par 72 on what many were describing as a brutal day at the East Valley Golf Club. A friend said at the beginning of the round that I had a humongous advantage because it's a beast referring to the course conditions. I had a bogey free round, and I'm tough to beat when I am mastering my putter," said Macaranas, who had a highlight shot on the par-4, 299-yard No. 3 hole.

"That shot was the best bunker shot of my life. I had to clear the green side bunkers and land it short of the green, in the rough for it to stop from rolling downhill. The ball miraculously landed on the rough and rolled down inches from the hole, almost getting an eagle," said Macaranas, who settled for a birdie.

The Long Beach-based golfer started the second and final round with a two-shot deficit against leader Daniel Son of Glendale, who ended up in third place after Macaranas played better than him in the last round.

Day 1 second placer Reiter and Macaranas, who was at third after the opening round, slugged it out for the championship in the playoff hole No. 1, a par-4, 302-yard hole.

"Charles used a 5 iron and was very short. I had about an 85-yard shot in the middle of the fairway, less head wind than when we started. I practice this uphill shot countless times, this green requires a shot to be short or you'll overshoot it and have a difficult chip. I had the advantage and knocked it in safely to about 36 feet from the pin," Macaranas said.

"It was fun, many officials and spectators were watching and cheering," he added.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	93	63	.596	_
New York	93	64	.592	1/2
Boston	87	69	.558	6
Toronto	81	75	.519	12
Baltimore	62	94	.397	31

Central Division

x-Minnesota	92	64	.590	_
Chicago	83	73	.532	9
Detroit	80	76	.513	12
Cleveland	66	91	.420	26 1/2
Kansas City	64	92	.410	28

West Division

x-Texas	87	69	.558	_
Oakland	77	79	.494	10
Los Angeles	76	80	.487	11
Seattle	60	96	.385	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Philadelphia	94	63	.599	_
Atlanta	88	69	.561	6
Florida	77	79	.494	16 1/2
New York	76	79	.490	17
Washington	67	90	.427	27

Central Division

Cincinnati	87	69	.558	_
St. Louis	81	75	.519	6
Houston	74	82	.474	13
Milwaukee	73	82	.471	13 1/2
Chicago	71	85	.455	16
Pittsburgh	55	101	.353	32

West Division

San Francisco	88	68	.564	_
San Diego	87	69	.558	1
Colorado	83	73	.532	5
Los Angeles	76	81	.484	12 1/2
Arizona	64	92	.410	24

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 8, Washington 0
Atlanta 2, Florida 1, 11 innings
Milwaukee at New York, ppd., rain
St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 4
L.A. Dodgers 3, Colorado 1
Chicago Cubs 1, San Diego 0
Cleveland 6, Detroit 3
Toronto 7, N.Y. Yankees 5
Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 0
Seattle 7, Texas 5
Boston 6, Chicago White Sox 1
Kansas City 10, Minnesota 8
L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 5

x-clinched division

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	68	47
Miami	2	1	0	.667	52	51
New England	2	1	0	.667	90	82
Buffalo	0	3	0	.000	47	87

South

Houston	2	1	0	.667	77	78
Indianapolis	2	1	0	.667	89	61
Tennessee	2	1	0	.667	78	42
Jacksonville	1	2	0	.333	40	83

North

Pittsburgh	3	0	0	1.000	72	33
Cincinnati	2	1	0	.667	59	55
Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	44	41
Cleveland	0	3	0	.000	45	57

West

Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	68	38
San Diego	1	2	0	.333	72	61
Denver	1	2	0	.333	61	65
Oakland	1	2	0	.333	52	76

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	83	62
Washington	1	2	0	.333	56	67
Dallas	1	2	0	.333	54	53
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	55	85

South

Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	77	46
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	63	58
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	50	59
Carolina	0	3	0	.000	32	71

North

Chicago	3	0	0	1.000	66	51
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	78	47
Minnesota	1	2	0	.333	43	38
Detroit	0	3	0	.000	56	78

West

Seattle	2	1	0	.667	72	57
Arizona	2	1	0	.667	48	77
St. Louis	1	2	0	.333	57	49
San Francisco	0	3	0	.000	38	87

Yesterday's Game

Chicago 20, Green Bay 17

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 10th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run leave the starting line at Banzai Cliff during last Saturday's race.

Dogs join the 10th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run too.

Mamiko Oshima-Berger, who did the race with her dog, smiles as she nears the finish line.

Mother and son, Noelle and Thijs Lowe walk to the finish line.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel is all smiles as he makes it to the finish line first.

Jessica Soll was the first female U18 finisher in the weekend race.

Angelo Jones was the first U18 finisher of the race.

A group of runners head to the finish line.

Koen Kabiriel, right, sprints to the finish line while his father, Jack, looks on.

Participants listen during the race briefing.

On eve of Heat camp, James takes center stage
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Braves nose ahead in wild-card race
PAGE 25

Bill seeks to allow NMASA to operate Oleai Sports Complex

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A bill has been introduced at the House of Representatives, giving the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association the power and duties to operate facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex.

House Bill 17-112, introduced by Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, sought to amend sections in Public Law No. 4-66, which created NMASA.

Under PL No. 4-66 approved by then Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio during the 4th Legislature in 1984, NMASA's powers and duties (Section 9404, b) include regulating the use, operation, and maintenance of sports facilities and fields of the CNMI government, under a memorandum between the association, departments of Community and Cultural Affairs, Natural Resources, Education, Public Works, and the Office of the Governor.

Under House Bill 17-112, NMASA will still have the same duty to operate and maintain sports facilities, but only those located at the Oleai Sports Complex, as may be more fully defined in a memorandum executed between NMASA, DCCA, and the

See BILL on Page 26

Faisao

White

RJ shows consistency in Summer Tour

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior golfer R.J. Macaranas concluded his three-month Summer Tour with Top 10 finishes in all 22 events he competed in the U.S. mainland.

"We had the most successful summer, thanks to the love, trust, and support you've all given to me. Together we succeeded in having these accomplishments," Macaranas said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The 11-year-old golfer won six tournaments—PGA Summer Metro, Indian Springs Championship, Ivey Ranch Championship, Crosby Memorial Championship, Casta Del Sol Championship, and Santa Anita Championship. Macaranas also had three runner-up finishes, four third place, three fourth place, two fifth place, one sixth place, one eighth place, and two ninth place.

With his impressive showing in the Summer Tour, Macaranas earned the No. 3 spot in the Player of the Year rankings for the 2010 Summer Metro Boys 11 and Under and 2010 Summer Desert Boys 11 and Under. He could have moved up to first or second place had he not missed several tournaments during the three-month period.

Of all the tournaments he joined from July to August, Macaranas treasured the Bridgestone TOC PGA Championship the most.

"I was determined to play just as good as I do at practice. Without my determination, I would have never won these championships, like my first Bridgestone TOC PGA Championship at Summer Metro," said Macaranas, who topped the event via sudden-death playoff.

See RJ on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Father and son R.J., left, and Richard Macaranas pose for a photo with the CNMI flag during one of the tournaments the former competed in this summer.

Fitial TKOs Korean opponent in HK

WWW.LEGENDFC.COM
Before notching his first round technical knockout, Kelvin "Big Hit" Fitial delivers a left hook to South Korean fighter Yang Hae Jun's chin during last Friday's Legend Fighting Championship 3 main event finale at Hall 3G of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center in Wan Chai.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial defeated South Korean fighter "Hungry" Yang Hae Jun via TKO at 3:16 in the first round of Legend Fighting Championship 3's main event last Friday at the Hall 3G of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center in Wan Chai.

"I expected [Jun] to stand, but was well

See FITIAL on Page 26

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Rollers A's Josh Norita skies to the hoop in their U19 Rotary caging game against Rollers B Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rollers A schools Rollers B

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Rollers A showed no love lost to Rollers B, routing its sister team 89-67 in the continuation of the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball U19 division Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jomar Danas got hot early, shooting eight points while getting six points apiece from teammates Shane Metran, Josh Nortia, and Dominic Reyes to give Rollers A a 28-16 lead after the opening quarter.

Rollers B, however, played with more gusto in the second quarter as center Savali Talalemotu and guard Joe Ada combined for 14 points to force a 39-all tie with Rollers A at the half.

It couldn't keep the momentum going in the second half though, as Rollers B only managed nine points in the third quarter against their opponent's stingy defense.

In contrast, Rollers A players caught fire with Brandon Aulerio leading the charge with 11 points in the third to push his team to a 65-48 advantage heading into the fourth and final quarter.

The 17-point turnaround broke the backs of Rollers B in the payoff period and Rollers A ran up the score in the end to win by a whopping 22 points.

Forward Josh Norita led Rollers with 19 points while Reyes, Aulerio, Danas, and Metran pumped in at least 10 points for the victors.

Talalemotu paced Rollers B in the loss with 18 markers, while Ada totaled 16.

Rollers A 89 – Norita 19, Reyes 13, Aulerio 11, Danas 10, Metran 10, Palacios 7, Basa 6, Torres 6, Deleon Guerrero 4.
Rollers B 67 – Talalemotu 18, Ada 16, Hambros 10, Palacios 2, Deleon Guerrero 7, Mariano 6, Darag 5, Cenir 4, Cepeda 1.
Scoring by quarters: 28-16, 39-39, 65-48, 89-67.